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AN
ABRIDGMENT
OF
D^R. GOLDSMITH'S HISTORY
OF
ENGLAND;

FROM THE
INVASION OF JULIUS CÆSAR
TO THE
DEATH OF GEORGE THE SECOND;
AND CONTINUED
TO THE GENERAL PEACE IN THE YEAR 1815.

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1817.







# THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

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## CHAPTER XXXV.

GEORGE II.

A. D. 1727-1760.

UPON the death of George the first, his son, George the second, came to the crown; a man of inferior abilities to the late king, and strongly biassed with a partiality to his dominions on the continent. The chief person, who engrossed the greatest share of power under him, was Sir Robert Walpole, who had risen from low beginnings, through two successive reigns, into great estimation. He was considered as a martyr to his cause, in the reign of queen Anne: and when the Tory party could no longer oppress him, he still preserved that hatred against them with which he set out. To defend the declining prerogative of the crown, might perhaps have been the first object of his attention; but soon after those very measures by which he pretended to secure it, proved the most effectual means to lessen it. By corrupting the house



of commons, he increased their riches and their power; and they were not averse to voting away those millions which he permitted them so liberally to share. As such a tendency in him naturally produced opposition, he was possessed of a most phlegmatic insensibility to reproach, and a calm dispassionate manner of reasoning upon such topics as he desired should be believed. His discourse was fluent, but without dignity; and his manner convincing from its apparent want of art.

The Spaniards were the first nation who shewed the futility of the treaties of the former reign to bind, when any advantage was to be procured by infraction. The people of our West-India islands had long carried on an illicit trade with the subjects of Spain upon the continent, but whenever detected were rigorously punished, and their cargoes confiscated to the crown. In this temerity of adventure on the one hand, and vigilance of pursuit and punishment on the other, it must often have happened that the innocent must suffer with the guilty, and many complaints were made, perhaps founded on justice, that the English merchants were plundered by the Spanish king's vessels upon the southern coasts of America, as if they had been pirates.

The English ministry, unwilling to credit every report which was inflamed by resentment, or urged by avarice, expected to remedy the evils complained of by their favourite system of treaty, and in the mean time promised the nation redress. At length, however, the complaints became more general, and the merchants remonstrated by petition to the house of commons, who entered into a deliberation on the



subject. They examined the evidence of several who had been unjustly seized, and treated with great cruelty. One man, the master of a trading vessel, had been used by the Spaniards in a most shocking manner; he gave in his evidence with great precision, informed the house of the manner they had plundered and stripped him, of their cutting off his ears, and their preparing to put him to death. « I then looked up, » cried he, « to my God for pardon and to my country for revenge. »

These accounts raised a flame among the people, which it was neither the minister's interest, nor perhaps that of the nation to indulge; new negotiations were set on foot, and new mediators offered their interposition. A treaty was signed at Vienna, between the emperor, the king of Great-Britain, and the king of Spain, which settled the peace of Europe upon its former footing, and put off the threatened war for a time. By this treaty the king of England conceived hopes that all war would be at an end. Don Carlos, upon the death of the duke of Parma, was, by the assistance of an English fleet, put in peaceable possession of Parma and Placentia, while six thousand Spaniards were quietly admitted, and quartered in the duchy of Tuscany, to secure for him the reversion of the dukedom.

An interval of peace succeeded, in which scarce any thing remarkable happened, and scarce any contest ensued except in the British parliament, where the disputes between the court and the country party were carried on with unceasing animosity.

A society of men in this interested age of seeming benevolence, had united themselves into a company by the name

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of the Charitable Corporation ; and their professed intention was to lend money at legal interest to the poor , upon small pledges , and to persons of higher rank upon proper security. Their capital was at first limited to thirty thousand pounds , but they afterwards increased it to six hundred thousand. This money was supplied by subscription , and the care of conducting the capital was intrusted in a proper number of directors. This company having continued for more than twenty years , the cashier , George Robinson , member for Marlow , and the warehouse-keeper , John Thompson , disappeared in one day. Five hundred thousand pounds of capital were found to be sunk and embezzled by means which the proprietors could not discover. They therefore , in a petition , represented to the house the manner in which they had been defrauded , and the distress to which many of the petitioners were reduced. A secret committee being appointed to examine into this grievance , a most iniquitous scene of fraud was soon discovered , which had been carried on by Robinson and Thompson , in concert with some of the directors , for embezzling the capital and cheating the proprietors. Many persons of rank and quality were concerned in this infamous conspiracy ; and even some of the first characters in the nation did not escape censure. A spirit of avarice and rapacity had infected every rank of life about this time ; no less than six members of parliament were expelled for the most sordid acts of knavery. Sir Robert Sutton , Sir Archibald Grant , and George Robinson , for their frauds in the management of the Charitable Corporation scheme ; Dennis Bond , and serjeant



Burch, for a fraudulent sale of the late unfortunate earl of Derwentwater's large estate; and lastly, John Ward, of Hackney, for forgery. Luxury had given birth to prodigality, and that was the parent of the meaner arts of speculation. It was asserted in the house of lords, at that time, that not one shilling of the forfeited estates was ever applied to the service of the public, but became the reward of fraud and venality.

A scheme set on foot by Sir Robert Walpole soon after engrossed the attention of the public, which was to fix a general excise. The minister introduced it into the house, by going into a detail of the frauds practised by the factors in London who were employed by the American planters in selling their tobacco. To prevent these frauds he proposed that instead of having the customs levied in the usual manner upon tobacco, all hereafter to be imported should be lodged in warehouses appointed for that purpose by the officers of the crown, and should from thence be sold, upon paying the duty of four pence a pound, when the proprietor found a purchaser. This proposal raised a violent ferment, not less within doors than without. It was asserted that it would expose the factors to such hardships that they would not be able to continue their trade, and that such a scheme would not even prevent the frauds complained of. It was added, that a number of additional excisemen and warehouse-keepers would thus be employed, which would at once render the ministry formidable and the people dependent. Such were the arguments made use of to stir up the citizens to op-

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pose this law ; arguments rather specious than solid , since , with all its disadvantages , the tax upon tobacco would thus be more safely and expeditiously collected , and the avenues to numberless frauds would be shut up. The people , however , were raised into such a ferment , that the parliament-house was surrounded with multitudes , who intimidated the ministry , and compelled them to drop the design. The miscarriage of the bill was celebrated with public rejoicings in London and Westminster , and the minister was burned in effigy by the populace of London.

Ever since the treaty of Utrecht , the Spaniards in America had insulted and distressed the commerce of Great-Britain , and the British merchants had attempted to carry on an illicit trade into their dominions. A right which the English merchants claimed by treaty , of cutting log-wood in the bay of Campeachy , gave them frequent opportunities of pushing in contraband commodities upon the continent : so that to suppress the evil , the Spaniards were resolved to annihilate the claim. This liberty of cutting log-wood had often been acknowledged , but never clearly ascertained ; in all former treaties , it was considered as an object of too little importance to make a separate article in any negociation. The Spanish vessels appointed for protecting the coast continued their severities upon the English ; many of the subjects of Britain were sent to dig in the mines of Potosi , and deprived of all means of conveying their complaints to those who might send them redress. One remonstrance followed another to the court of Madrid of this violation of treaty ; but the only answer given were



promises of enquiry, which produced no reformation. Our merchants complained loudly of those outrages; but the ministers vainly expected from negotiations that redress, which was only to be obtained by arms.

The fears discovered by the court of Great-Britain only served to increase the insolence of the enemy; and their guard-ships continued to seize not only all the guilty, but the innocent, whom they found sailing along the Spanish main. At last, however, the complaints of the English merchants were loud enough to interest the house of commons; their letters and memorials were produced, and their grievances enforced by counsel at the bar of the house. It was soon found that the money which Spain had agreed to pay the court of Great-Britain was withheld, and no reason assigned for the delay. The minister, therefore, to gratify the general ardour, and to atone for his former deficiencies, assured the house that he would put the nation in a condition for war. Soon after letters of reprisals were granted against the Spaniards, and this being on both sides considered as an actual commencement of hostilities, both diligently set forward their armaments by sea and land. In this threatening situation the French minister at the Hague declared that his master was obliged by treaty to assist the king of Spain; so that the alliances which but twenty years before had taken place, were now quite reversed. At that time France and England were combined against Spain; at present, France and Spain were united against England; such little hopes can statesmen place upon the firmest treaties, where



there is no superior power to compel the observance.

A rupture between England and Spain being now become unavoidable, the people who had long clamoured for war, began to feel uncommon alacrity at its approach; and the ministry, finding it inevitable, began to be as earnest in preparation. Orders were issued for augmen-

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ting the land forces, and raising a body of marines. War was declared with proper solemnity, and soon after two rich Spanish prizes were taken in the Mediterranean. Admiral Vernon, a man of more courage than experience, of more confidence than skill, was sent commander of a fleet into the West-Indies, to distress the enemy in that part of the globe. He had asserted in the house of commons that Porto-Bello, a fort and harbour in South America, could be easily destroyed, and that he himself would undertake to reduce it, with six ships only. A project which appeared so wild and impossible, was ridiculed by the ministry; but as he still persisted in the proposal, they complied with his request, hoping that his want of success might repress the confidence of his party. In this, however, they were disappointed; for with six ships only, he attacked and demolished all the fortifications of the place, and came away victorious, with scarcely the loss of a man. This victory was magnified at home in all the strains of panegyric, and the triumph was far superior to the value of conquest.

While vigorous preparations were making in the other departments, a squadron of ships were equip-



ped for distressing the enemy in the South Seas, the command of which was given to commodore Anson. This fleet was destined to sail through the streights of Magellan, and steering northwards along the coasts of Chili and Peru, to co-operate occasionally with admiral Vernon across the Isthmus of Darien. These delays and mistakes of the ministry frustrated that part of the scheme, which was originally well laid. When it was too late in the season, the commodore set out with five ships, of the line, a frigate, and two storeships, with about fourteen hundred men. Having reached the coast of Brazil, he refreshed his men for some time on the Island of St. Catherine, a spot that enjoys all the fruitfulness and verdure of the luxurious tropical climate. From thence he steered downward into the cold and tempestuous regions of the south, and in about five months after, meeting a terrible tempest, he doubled Cape Horn. By this time his fleet was dispersed, and his crew deplorably disabled by the scurvy; so that with much difficulty he gained the delightful island of Juan Fernandes. There he was joined by one ship, and a vessel of seven guns. From thence advancing northward, he landed on the coast of Chili, and attacked the city of Paita by night. In this bold attempt he made no use of his shipping, nor even disembarked all his men; a few soldiers, favoured by darkness, sufficed to fill the whole town with terror and confusion. The governor of the garrison and the inhabitants fled on all sides; accustomed to be severe, they expected severity. In the mean time a small body of the English kept possession of the town for three days, stripped it of all the treasures and mer



chandise to a considerable amount, and then set it on fire.

Soon after this small squadron advanced as far as Panama, situated on the Isthmus of Darien, on the western side of the great American continent. The commodore now placed all hopes in taking one of those valuable ships which trade from the Philippine Islands to Mexico. Not above one or two at the most of these immensely rich ships went from one continent to the other in a year; they were, therefore, very large in order to carry a sufficiency of treasure, and proportionably strong to defend it. In hopes of meeting with one of these, the commodore, with his little fleet, traversed the great Pacific ocean; but the scurvy once more visiting his crew, several of his men died, and almost all were disabled. In this exigence, having brought all his men into one vessel, and set fire to the other, he steered for the island of Tinian, which lies about half way between the new world and the old. In this charming abode he continued for some time, till his men recovered their health, and his ship was refitted for sailing.

Thus refitted, he set forward for China, where he laid in proper stores for once more traversing back that immense ocean, in which he had just before suffered such incredible difficulties. Having accordingly taken some Dutch and Indian sailors on board, he again steered towards America, and at length, after various toils, discovered the Spanish galleon he had so long ardently expected. This vessel was built as well for the purposes of war as of merchandise. It mounted sixty guns, and five hundred men, while the crew of the commodore did



not amount to half that number. However the victory was on the side of the English, and they returned home with their valuable prize, which was estimated at three hundred and thirteen thousand pounds sterling, while the different captures that had been made before amounted to as much more. Thus, after a voyage of three years, conducted with astonishing perseverance and intrepidity, the public sustained the loss of a noble fleet; but a few individuals became possessed of immense riches.

In the mean time the English conducted other operations against the enemy with amazing activity. When Anson set out, it was with a design of acting a subordinate part to a formidable armament designed for the coasts of New Spain, consisting of twenty-nine ships of the line, and almost an equal number of frigates, furnished with all kinds of warlike stores, near fifteen thousand seamen, and as many land forces. Never was a fleet more completely equipped, nor ever had the nation more sanguine hopes of success. Lord Cathcart was appointed to command the land forces, but he dying on the passage; the command devolved upon general Wentworth, whose abilities were supposed to be unequal to the trust reposed in him.

When the forces were landed at Carthagená, they erected a battery, with which they made a breach in the principal fort, while Vernon who commanded the fleet, sent a number of ships into the harbour, to divide the fire of the enemy, and to co-operate with the army on shore. The breach being deemed practicable, a body of troops were commanded to storm; but the Spaniards deserted the forts, which, if possessed of courage, they might have defended



with success. The troops, upon gaining this advantage, were advanced a good deal nearer the city; but they there met a much greater opposition than they had expected. It was found, or asserted, that the fleet could not lie near enough to batter the town, and that nothing remained but to attempt one of the forts by scaling. The leaders of the fleet and the army began mutually to accuse each other, each asserting the probability of what the other denied. At length Wentworth, stimulated by the admiral's reproach, resolved to try the dangerous experiment, and ordered that fort St. Lazare should be attempted by scalade. Nothing could be more unfortunate than this undertaking; the forces marching up to the attack, their guides were slain, and they mistook their way. Instead of attempting the weakest part of the fort, they advanced to where it was strongest, and where they were exposed to the fire of the town. Colonel Grant, who commanded the grenadiers, was killed in the beginning. Soon after it was found that their scaling ladders were too short; the officers were perplexed for want of orders, and the troops stood exposed to the whole fire of the enemy, without knowing how to proceed. After bearing a dreadful fire some hours with great intrepidity, they at length retreated, leaving six hundred men dead on the spot. The terrors of the climate soon began to be more dreaded than those of war; the rainy season came on with such violence, that it was impossible for the troops to continue encamped; and the mortality of the season now began to attack them in all its frightful varieties. To these calamities was added the dissension between the land and sea comman-



ders, who blamed each other for every failure. They only could be brought to agree to reembark the troops, and withdraw them, as quick as possible, from this scene of slaughter and contagion. This fatal miscarriage was no sooner known in England, than the kingdom was filled with murmurs and discontent. The loudest bursts of indignation was directed at the minister; and they who once praised him for successes he did not merit, condemned him now for a failure, of which he was guiltless.

The minister finding the indignation of the house of commons turned against him, tried every art to break every confederacy, which he knew he had not strength to oppose. The resentment of the people had been raised against him to an extravagant height; and their leaders taught them to expect very signal justice on their supposed oppressor. At length finding his post untenable, he declared he would never sit more in that house; the next day the king adjourned both houses of parliament for a few days, and in the interim Sir Robert Walpole was created earl of Orford, and resigned all his employments.

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But the pleasure of his defeat was of short duration; it soon appeared that those who declared most loudly for the liberty of the people had adopted new measures with their new employments. The new converts were branded as betrayers of the interests of their country; but particularly the resentment of the people fell upon Pulteney, earl of Bath, who had long declaimed against that very conduct he now seemed to pursue. He had been the idol of the people, and considered as one of



the most illustrious champions that had ever defended the cause of freedom; but allured, perhaps, with the hope of governing in Walpole's place, he was contented to give up his popularity for ambition. The king, however, treated him with that neglect which he merited: he was laid aside for life, and continued a wretched survivor of all his former importance.

The emperor dying in the year 1740, the French began to think this a favourable opportunity for exerting their ambition once more. Regardless of treaties, particularly that called the Pragmatic Sanction, by which the reversion of all the late emperor's dominions was settled upon his daughter, they caused the elector of Bavaria to be crowned emperor. Thus the queen of Hungary the daughter of Charles the sixth, descended from an illustrious line of emperors, saw herself stripped of her inheritance, and left for a whole year deserted by all Europe, and without hopes of succour. She had scarce closed her father's eyes, when she lost Silesia by an irruption of the young king of Prussia, who seized the opportunity of her defenceless state to renew his ancient pretensions to that province, of which it must be owned his ancestors had been unjustly deprived. France, Saxony, and Bavaria, attacked the rest of her dominions; England was the only ally that seemed willing to espouse her helpless condition. Sardinia and Holland soon after came to her assistance; and last of all Russia acceded to the union in her favour.

It may now be demanded, what cause Britain had to intermeddle in these continental schemes? It can only be answered, that the interest of Hanover,



and the security of that electorate, depended upon the nicely balancing the different interests of the empire; and the English ministry were willing to gratify the king. Accordingly the king sent a body of English forces into the Netherlands, which he had augmented by sixteen thousand Hanoverians, to make a diversion upon the dominions of France, in the queen of Hungary's favour. And by the assistance of these the queen of Hungary soon began to turn the scale of victory on her side. The French were driven out of Bohemia. Her general, prince Charles, at the head of a large army, invaded the dominions of Bavaria. Her rival, the nominal emperor, was obliged to fly before her; and being abandoned by his allies, and stripped of even his hereditary dominions, retired to Franckfort, where he lived in obscurity.

The French, in order to prevent this junction of the Austrian and British forces, assembled an army of sixty thousand men upon the river Mayn, under the command of Marshal Noailles, who posted his troops upon the east side of that river. The British forces, to the number of forty thousand, pushed forward on the other side into a country where they were entirely destitute of provisions, the French having cut off all means of their being supplied. The king of England arriving at the camp while his army was in this deplorable situation, resolved to penetrate forward to join twelve thousand Hanoverians and Hessians, who had reached Hanau: but before his army had reached three leagues, he found the enemy had inclosed him on every side, near the village called Dettingen.

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Nothing now presented but the most mortifying prospects; if he fought the enemy, it must be at the greatest disadvantage; if he continued inactive, there was a certainty of being starved and a retreat for all was impossible. The impetuosity of the French troops saved his whole army. They passed a defile which they should have been contented to guard; and, under the command of the duke of Grammont, their horse charged the English foot with great fury. They were received with intrepidity and resolution; so that they were obliged to give way, and repass the Mayn with precipitation, with the loss of above five thousand men.

Meanwhile the French went on with vigour on every side. They projected an invasion of England; and Charles, the son of the Pretender, departed from Rome, in the disguise of a Spanish courier, for Paris, where he had an audience of the French king. The family had long been the dupes of France, but it was thought at present there were serious resolutions formed in their favour. The troops destined for the expedition amounted to fifteen thousand men; preparations were made for embarking them at Dunkirk, and some of the nearest ports to England, under the eye of the young Pretender. The duke de Roqueseuille, with twenty ships of the line, was to see them safely landed in England, and the famous count Saxe was to command them, when put on shore. But the whole project was disconcerted by the appearance of Sir John Norris, who, with a superior fleet, made up to attack them. The French fleet was thus obliged to put back; a very bad gale of wind damaged their transports beyond redress; and the French, now



frustrated in their scheme of a sudden descent; thought fit openly to declare war.

The French, therefore, entered upon the war with great alacrity. They besieged Fribourg, and in the beginning of the succeeding campaign invested the strong city of Tournay. Although the allies were inferior in number, yet they resolved, if possible, to save the city by hazarding a battle. They accordingly marched against the enemy, and took post in sight of the French, who were encamped on an eminence, the village of St. Antoine on the right, a wood on the left, and the town of Fontenoy before them. This advantageous situation did not repress the ardour of the English, who began the attack at two o'clock in the morning, and pressing forward bore down all opposition. They were for near an hour victorious, and confident of success, while Saxe, a Soldier of fortune, who commanded the French army, was at that time sick of the same disorder of which he afterwards died. However, he was carried about to all the posts in a litter, and assured his attendants, that notwithstanding all unfavourable appearances, the day was his own. A column of the English, without any command, but by mere mechanical courage, had advanced upon the enemy's lines, which opening, formed an avenue on each side, to receive them. It was then that the French artillery on the three sides began to play on this forlorn body, which though they continued for a long time unshaken, were obliged at last to retreat about three in the afternoon. This was one of the most bloody battles that had been fought in this age; the allies left on the field of battle near elve thousand men, and the French bought their



victory with near an equal number of slain, but it gave them such a manifest superiority all the rest of the campaign, that they kept the fruits of it during the whole continuance of the war.

A. D. 1745. But though bad success attended the British arms by land and sea, yet these being distant evils, the English seemed only to complain from honourable motives, and murmured at distresses of which they had but a very remote prospect. A civil war also was now going to be kindled in their own dominions, which, while it encreased their perplexities, only cemented their union. It was at this period, that the son of the old Pretender resolved to make an effort for gaining the British crown. Charles Edward, the adventurer in question, had been bred in a luxurious court, without partaking in its effeminacy. He was enterprising and ambitious; but either from inexperience, or natural inability, utterly unequal to the bold undertaking. He was long flattered by the rash, the superstitious, and the needy; he was taught to believe that the kingdom was ripe for a revolt, and that it could no longer bear the immense load of taxes with which it was burthened; and being furnished with some money, and with large promises from France, he embarked for Scotland on board a small frigate, accompanied by the marquis of Tullibardine, Sir Thomas Sheridan, and a few other desperate adventurers. Thus for the conquest of the whole British empire, he only brought with him seven officers, and arms for two thousand men. On his arrival at Perth, the unnecessary ceremony was performed of proclaiming his father king of Great-Britain. From thence descending with his



forces from the mountains, they seemed to gather as they went forward; and advancing to Edinburg, they entered that city without opposition. There again the pageantry of proclamation was performed, and there he promised to dissolve the union, which was considered as one of the grievances of the country. But the castle of that city still held out, and he was unprovied with cannon to besiege it.

In the mean time, Sir John Cope, who had pursued the rebels through the Highlands, but had declined meeting them in their descent, being now reinforced by two regiments of dragoons, resolved to march towards Edinburgh, and give the enemy battle. The young adventurer, whose forces were rather superior, though undisciplined, attacked him near Preston Pans, about twelve miles from the capital, and in a few minutes put him and his troops to flight. This victory, by which the king lost five hundred men, gave the rebels great influence; and had the Pretender taken advantage of the general consternation, and marched directly for England, the consequence might have been fatal to freedom. But he was amused by the promise of succours which never came; and thus induced to remain in Edinburgh, to enjoy the triumphs of an unimportant victory, and to be treated as a monarch, and while he was thus trifling away his time at Edinburg, the ministry of Great-Britain took every proper precaution to oppose him with success. Six thousand Dutch troops that had come over to the assistance of the crown, were dispatched northward, under the command of general Wade. The duke of Cumberland soon after arrived from Flanders, and was followed by another detachment of



dragoons and infantry, well disciplined, and inured to action. Besides these, volunteers offered in every part of the kingdom; and every county exerted a vigorous spirit of indignation both against the ambition, religion, and the allies of the young Pretender.

However, he had been bred in a school that taught him maxims very different from those that then prevailed in England. Though he might have brought civil war, and all the calamities attending it, with him into the kingdom, he had been taught the assertion of his right was a duty incumbent upon him, and the altering the constitution, and, perhaps, the religion of the country, an object of laudable ambition. Thus animated, he went forward with vigour, and having upon frequent consultation with his officers, come to a resolution of making an irruption into England, he entered the country by the western border, and invested Carlisle which surrendered in less than three days. He there found a considerable quantity of arms, and there too he caused his father to be proclaimed king.

General Wade being apprised of his progress, advanced across the country from the opposite shore; but receiving intelligence that the enemy was two days march before him, he retired to his former station. The young Pretender, therefore thus unopposed, resolved to penetrate farther into the kingdom, having received assurances from France that a considerable body of troops would be landed on the southern coasts, to make a diversion in his favour. He was flattered also with the hopes of being joined by a considerable number of malcontents,



as he passed forward, and that his army would increase on the march. Accordingly, leaving a small garrison in Carlisle, which he should rather have left defenceless, he advanced to Penrith, marching on foot in a Highland dress, and continuing his irruption till he came to Manchester, where he established his head quarters.

He was there joined by about two hundred English, who were formed into a regiment, under the command of colonel Townley. From thence he pursued his march to Derby, intending to go by the way of Chester into Wales, where he hoped to be joined by a great number of followers; but the factions among his own chiefs prevented his proceeding. He had, however, advanced within a hundred miles of the capital, which was filled with perplexity and consternation, and where, had he proceeded in his career, he would certainly have been joined by a considerable number of his well-wishers who waited impatiently for his approach.

In the mean time the king resolved to take the field in person. But he found safety from the discontents which now began to prevail in the Pretender's army. In fact, he was but the nominal leader of his forces; as his generals, the chiefs of the Highland clans, were, from their education, ignorant, and averse to subordination. They had, from the beginning, began to embrace opposite systems of operation, and to contend with each other for pre-eminence; but they seemed now unanimous in returning to their own country once more.

The rebels accordingly effected their retreat to Carlisle, without any loss, and from thence crossed the rivers Eden and Solway into Scotland. In these



marches, however, they preserved all the rules of war; they abstained, in a great measure from plunder, they levied contributions on the towns as they passed along, and with unaccountable precaution left a garrison in Carlisle, which shortly after was obliged to surrender to the duke of Cumberland at discretion, to the number of four hundred men.

The Pretender being returned to Scotland, he proceeded to Glasgow, from which city he exacted severe contributions. He advanced from thence to Stirling, where he was joined by lord Lewis Gordon, at the head of some forces, which had been assembled in his absence. Other clans, to the number of two thousand, came in likewise; and from some supplies of money which he had received from Spain, and from some skirmishes, in which he was successful against the royalists, his affairs began to wear a more promising aspect. Being joined by lord Drummond, he invested the castle of Stirling, commanded by general Blakeney, but the rebel forces being unused to sieges, consumed much time to no purpose. It was during this attempt, that general Hawley, who commanded a considerable body of forces near Edinburgh, undertook to raise the siege, and advanced towards the rebel army as far as Falkirk. After two days spent in mutual examining each other's strength, the rebels being ardent to engage, were led on in full spirits to attack the king's army. The Pretender, who was in the front line, gave the signal to engage; and the first fire put Hawley's forces into confusion. The horse retreated with precipitation, and fell upon their own infantry; while the rebels following the



blow, the greatest part of the royal army retired in confusion to Edinburgh, leaving the conquerors in possession of their tents, their artillery, and the field of battle.

Thus far the affairs of the rebel army seemed not unprosperous; but here was an end of all their triumphs. The duke of Cumberland, at that time the favourite of the English army, put himself at the head of the troops at Edinburgh, which consisted of about fourteen thousand men. With these he advanced to Aberdeen, where he was joined by several of the Scottish nobility, and resolved to find out the enemy, who retreated at his approach. After having refreshed his troops at Aberdeen for some time, he renewed his march, and in twelve days he came up to the banks of the deep and rapid river Spey. This was the place where the rebels might have disputed his passage, but they lost every advantage in disputing with each other. They seemed now totally devoid of all counsel and subordination, without conduct and without unanimity. After a variety of contests among each other, they resolved to await their pursuers upon the plains of Culloden, a place about nine miles distance from Inverness, embosomed in hills except on that side which was open to the sea. There they drew up in order of battle, to the number of eight thousand men, in three divisions, supplied with some pieces of artillery, ill manned and served.

The battle began about one o'clock in the afternoon; the cannon of the king's army did dreadful execution among the rebels, while theirs was totally unserviceable. One of the great errors in all the Pretender's warlike measures, was his subjecting



wild and undisciplined troops to the forms of artful war, and thus repressing their native ardour, from which alone he could hope for success. After they had been kept in their ranks, and withstood the English fire for some time, they at length became impatient for closer engagement; and about five-hundred of them made an irruption upon the left wing of the enemy, with their accustomed ferocity. The first line being disordered by this onset, two battalions advanced to support it, and galled the enemy with a terrible close discharge. At the same time the dragoons, under Hawley, and the Argyleshire militia, pulling down a park wall that guarded the flank of the enemy, and which they had but feebly defended, fell in among them sword in hand, with great slaughter. In less than thirty minutes they were totally routed, and the field covered with their wounded and slain, to the number of three thousand men. The French troops on the left did not fire a shot, but stood inactive, and afterwards surrendered themselves prisoners of war. An entire body of the clans marched off the field in order, while the rest were routed with great slaughter, and their leaders obliged with reluctance to retire. The victory was in every respect decisive, and humanity to the conquered would have rendered it glorious. But little mercy was shewn here; the conquerors were seen to refuse quarter to the wounded, the unarmed and the defenceless; and some were slain who were only excited by curiosity to become spectators of the combat. The duke, immediately after the action, ordered six and thirty deserters to be executed; and the conquerors spread terror wherever they came.



In this manner were blasted all the hopes, and all the ambition of the young adventurer; one short hour deprived him of imaginary thrones and sceptres, and reduced him from a nominal king to a distressed, forlorn outcast, shunned by all mankind, except such as sought his destruction. Immediately after the engagement, he fled away with a captain of Fitz-James's cavalry, and when their horses were fatigued, they both alighted and separately sought for safety. He was for some days wandered in this country naturally wild, but now rendered more formidable by war, a wretched spectator of all those horrors which were the result of his ill-guided ambition. He sometimes found refuge in caves and cottages, without attendants, and depended on the wretched natives, who could pity, but not relieve him. Sometimes he lay in forests, with one or two companions of his distress, continually pursued by the troops of the conqueror, as there was a reward of thirty thousand pounds offered for taking him, dead or alive. Sheridan, an Irish adventurer, was the person who kept most faithfully by him, and inspired him with courage to support such incredible hardships. He had occasion in the course of his concealments, to trust his life to the fidelity of above fifty individuals, whose veneration for his family prevailed above their avarice.

One day having walked from morning to night he ventured to enter a house, the owner of which he well knew was attached to the opposite party. As he entered, he addressed the master of the house in the following manner: « The son of your king » comes to beg a little bread, and a few clothes. » I know your present attachment to my adver-



» saries , but I believe you have sufficient honour  
» not to abuse my confidence , or take advantage  
» of my distressed situation. Take these rags that  
» have for some time been my only covering, you  
» may probably restore them to me one day when  
» I shall be seated on the throne of Great Britain. »  
The master of the house was touched with pity at his distress; he assisted him as far as he was able, and never divulged the secret. There were few of those who even wished his destruction, would choose to be the immediate actors in it, as it would subject them to the resentment of a numerous party.

In this manner he continued to wander among the frightful wilds of Glengary, for near six months, often hemmed round by his pursuers, but still rescued by some lucky accident, from the impending danger. At length a privateer of St. Maloes, hired by his adherents, arrived at Lochnanach; in which he embarked in the most wretched attire. He was clad in a short coat of black frize, threadbare, over which was a common Highland plaid, girt round by a belt, from which depended a pistol and a dagger. He had not been shifted for many weeks; his eyes were hollow, his visage wan, and his constitution greatly impaired by famine and fatigue. He was accompanied by Sullivan and Sheridan, two Irish adherents, who had shared all his calamities, together with Cameron of Lochiel, and his brother, and a few other exiles. They set sail for France, and after having been chased by two English men of war, they arrived in safety at a place called Roseau, near Morlaix, in Bretagne; perhaps he would have found it more difficult to escape, had



not the vigilance of his pursuers been relaxed, by a report that he was already slain.

In the mean time, while the Pretender was thus pursued, seventeen officers of the rebel army were hanged, drawn and quartered at Kennington-common, in the neighbourhood of London. Nine were executed in the same manner at Carlisle, and eleven at York. A few obtained pardon, and a considerable number of the common men were transported to the plantations in North-America. The earls of Kilmarnock and Cromartie, and the lord Balmerino, were tried by their peers, and found guilty. Cromartie was pardoned, and the others were beheaded on Tower-hill.

In this manner victory, defeat, negotiation, treachery, and rebellion succeeded each other rapidly for some years till all sides began to think themselves growing more feeble, and gaining no solid advantage. A negotiation was therefore resolved upon; and the contending powers agreed to come to a congress at Aix-la-Chapelle, where the earl of Sandwich and Sir Thomas Robinson, assisted as plenipotentiaries from the king of Great-Britain. This treaty was begun, upon the preliminary conditions of restoring all the conquests made during the war. From thence great hopes were expected of conditions both favourable and honourable to the English; but the treaty still remains a lasting mark of precipitate councils. By it was agreed, that all the prisoners on ~~each~~ side should be mutually restored, and all the conquests given up. That the duchies of Parma, Placentia, and Guastalla, should be ceded to Don Philip, heir-apparent to the Spanish throne, and to his heirs;



but in case of his succeeding to the crown of Spain, then these dominions should revert to the house of Austria. It was confirmed, that the fortifications of Dunkirk to the sea should be demolished; that the English ship annually sent with slaves to the coast of new Spain, should have this privilege continued for four years. That the king of Prussia should be confirmed in the possession of Silesia, which he had lately conquered; and that the queen of Hungary should be secured in her patrimonial dominions. But one article of the peace was more displeasing and afflictive to the English than all the rest. It was stipulated, that the king of Great-Britain should, immediately after the ratification of this treaty, send two persons of rank and distinction to France as hostages, until restitution should be made of Cape Breton, and all other conquests which England had made during the war. This was a mortifying clause; but, to add to the general error of the negociation, no mention was made of the searching the vessels of England in the American seas, upon which the war was originally begun. The limits of their respective possessions in North-America were not ascertained; nor did they receive any equivalent for those forts which they restored to the enemy. The treaty of Utrecht had long been the object of reproach to the party whom it was made; but, with all its faults, the treaty now concluded was by far more despicable and erroneous. Yet such was the spirit of the times, that the treaty of Utrecht was branded with universal contempt, and the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle was extolled with the highest strains of praise.



This treaty which some asserted would serve for a bond of permanent amity, was, properly speaking, but a temporary truce, a cessation from hostilities, which both sides were unable to continue. Though the war between England and France was actually hushed up in Europe, yet in the East and West-Indies it still went forward with undiminished vehemence. Both sides still willing to offend, still offending, and yet both complaining of the infraction.

A new colony having been formed in North-America, in the province of Nova Scotia, it was thought that thither the waste of an exuberant nation might well be drained off; and those bold spirits kept in employment at a distance, who might be dangerous, if suffered to continue in idleness at home. Nova Scotia, was a place where men might be imprisoned, but not maintained; it was cold, barren, and incapable of successful cultivation. The new colony, therefore, was maintained there with some expence to the government in the beginning; and such as were permitted, soon went southward to the milder climates, where they were invited by an untenanted and fertile soil. Thus did the nation ungratefully send off her hardy veterans to perish on inhospitable shores; and this they were taught to believe would extend their dominions.

However, it was for this barren spot that the English and French revived the war, which soon after spread with such terrible devastation over every part of the globe. The native Indians bordering upon the deserts of Nova Scotia, a fierce and savage people, looked from the first with jealousy



upon these new settlers ; and they considered the vicinity of the English as an encroachment upon their native possessions. The French , who were neighbours in like manner , and who were still impressed with national animosity , fomented these suspicions in the natives , and represented the English ( and with regard to this colony the representation might be true ) as enterprising and severe. Commissaries were therefore appointed to meet at Paris , to compromise these disputes ; but these conferences were rendered abortive by the cavillings of men who could not be supposed to understand the subject in debate.

As this seemed to be the first place where the dissensions took their rise for a new war , it may be necessary to be a little more minute. The French had been the first cultivators of Nova Scotia , and by great industry and long perseverance , had rendered the soil , naturally barren , somewhat more fertile , and capable of sustaining nature with some assistance from Europe. This country , however , had frequently changed masters ; until at length the English were settled in the possession , and acknowledged as the rightful owners by the treaty of Utrecht. The possession of this country was reckoned necessary to defend the English colonies to the north , and to preserve their superiority in the fisheries in that part of the world. The French , however , who had long been settled in the back parts of the country , resolved to use every method to dispossess the new comers , and spirited up the Indians to more open hostilities , which were represented to the English ministry for some time without redress.



Soon after this another source of dispute began to be seen in the same part of the world, and promised as much uneasiness as the former. The French pretending first to have discovered the mouth of the river Mississippi, claimed the whole adjacent country towards New Mexico on the east, and quite to the Apalachian mountains on the west. In order to assert their claims, they found several English, who had settled beyond these mountains, from motives of commerce, and also invited by the natural beauties of the country; they dispossessed them of their new settlements, and built such forts as would command the whole country round about. Not in America alone, but also in Asia, the seeds of a new war were preparing to be expanded. On the coasts of Malabar, the English and French had, in fact, never ceased from hostilities.

The ministry, however, in England, began now a very vigorous exertion in defence of their colonies, who refused to defend themselves. Four operations were undertaken in America at the same time. Of these, one was commanded by colonel Monckton, who had orders to drive the French from the encroachments upon the province of Nova Scotia. The second, more to the south, was directed against Crown-point, under the command of general Johnson. The third, under the conduct of general Shirley, was destined to Niagara, to secure the forts on the river; and the fourth, was further southward still, against fort Du Quesne, under general Braddock.

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In these expeditions Monckton was successful;



Johnson also was victorious, though he failed in taking the fort against which he was sent; Shirley was thought to have lost the season for operation by delay; Braddock was vigorous and active, but suffered a defeat. This bold commander, who had been recommended to this service by the duke of Cumberland, set forward upon this expedition in June, and left the cultivated parts of the country on the 10<sup>th</sup>, at the head of two thousand two hundred men, directing his march to the part of that country where general Washington had been defeated the year before. Being at length within ten miles of the French fortress he was appointed to besiege, and marching forward through the forests with full confidence of success, on a sudden his whole army was astonished by a general discharge of arms, both in front and flank, from an enemy that still remained unseen. It was now too late to think of retreating; the troops had passed into the defile, which the enemy had artfully permitted them to go before they offered to fire. The vanguard of the English now, therefore, fell back in consternation upon the main body, and the panic soon became general. The officers alone disdained to fly, while Braddock himself still continued to command his brave associates, discovering at once the greatest intrepidity and the greatest imprudence. An enthusiast to the discipline of war, he disdained to fly from the field, or to permit his men to quit their ranks, when their only method of treating the Indian army, was by a precipitate attack, or an immediate desertion of the field of battle. At length Braddock, having received a musket shot through the lungs, drop-



ped, and a total confusion ensued. All the artillery, ammunition, and baggage of the army was left to the enemy; and the loss sustained by the English army amounted to seven hundred men.

The murmurs, fears, and dissensions which this defeat gave rise to, gave the French an opportunity of carrying on their designs in another quarter. The island of Minorca, which we had taken from the Spaniards in the reign of queen Anne, was secured to England by repeated treaties. But the ministry at this time had neglected to take sufficient precautions for its defence. The French landed near the fortification of St. Philip's, which was reckoned one of the strongest in Europe, and commanded by general Blakeney, who was brave indeed, but rather superannuated. The siege was carried on with great vigour, and some time as obstinately defended on the side of the English; but the place was at length obliged to capitulate.

The ministry being apprised of this unexpected attack, resolved to raise the siege, if possible, and sent out admiral Byng, with ten ships of war, with orders to relieve Minorca at any rate. Byng accordingly sailed from Gibraltar, where he was refused any assistance of men from the governor of that garrison, under a pretence that his own fortification was in danger. Upon his approaching the island, he soon saw the French banners displayed upon the shore, and the English colours still flying on the castle of St. Philip. He had been ordered to throw a body of troops into the garrison, but this he thought too hazardous an undertaking, nor did he even make an attempt. While he was thus deliberating between his fears and his



duty, his attention was quickly called off by the appearance of a French fleet, that seemed of nearly equal force to his own. Confounded by a variety of measures, he seemed resolved to pursue none, and therefore gave orders to form the line of battle, and act upon the defensive. Byng had been long praised for his skill in naval tactics; and, perhaps, valuing most those talents for which he was most praised, he sacrificed all claims to courage, to the applause for naval discipline. The French fleet advanced, a part of the English fleet engaged; the admiral still kept aloof, and gave very plausible reasons for not coming into action. The French fleet, therefore, slowly sailed away, and no other opportunity ever offered of coming to a closer engagement.

Nothing could exceed the resentment of the nation upon being informed of Byng's conduct. The ministry were not averse to throwing from themselves the blame of those measures which were attended with such indifferent success, and they secretly fanned the flame. The news, which soon after arrived, of the surrender of the garrison to the French, drove the general ferment almost to a frenzy. In the mean time Byng continued at Gibraltar, quite satisfied with his own conduct, and little expected the dreadful storm that was gathering against him at home. Orders, however, were soon sent out for putting him under an arrest, and for carrying him to England. Upon his arrival, he was committed to close custody, in Greenwich hospital, and some arts used to inflame the populace against him, who want no incentives to injure and condemn their superiors. Several addresses were sent



up from different counties, demanding justice on the delinquent, which the ministry were willing to second. He was soon after tried by a court-martial, in the harbour of Portsmouth, where, after a trial which continued several days, his judges were agreed that he had not done his utmost during the engagement to destroy the enemy, and therefore they adjudged him to suffer death by the twelfth article of war. At the same time, however, they recommended him as an object of mercy, as they considered his conduct rather as the effect of error than of cowardice. By this sentence they expected to satisfy at once the resentment of the nation, and yet screen themselves from conscious severity. The government was resolved upon shewing him no mercy; the parliament was applied to in his favour; but they found no circumstances in his conduct that could invalidate the former sentence. Being thus abandoned to his fate, he maintained to the last a degree of fortitude and serenity that no way betrayed any timidity or cowardice. On the day fixed for his execution, which was on board a man of war in the harbour of Portsmouth, he advanced from the cabin, where he had been imprisoned, upon deck, the place appointed for him to suffer. After delivering a paper, containing the strongest assertions of his innocence, he came forward to the place where he was to kneel down, and for some time persisted in not covering his face; but his friends representing that his looks would possibly intimidate the soldiers who were to shoot him, and prevent their taking proper aim, he had his eyes bound with a handkerchief; and then giving the signal for the soldiers to fire, he



was killed instantaneously. There appears some severity in Byng's punishment; but it certainly produced soon after very beneficial effects to the nation.

In the progress of the war the forces of the contending powers of Europe were now drawn out in the following manner: — England opposed France in America, Asia, and on the ocean. France attacked Hanover on the continent of Europe. This country the king of Prussia undertook to protect; while England promised him troops and money to assist his operations. Then again Austria had her aims on the dominions of Prussia, and drew the elector of Saxony into the same designs. In these views she was seconded by France and Sweden, and by Russia, who had hopes of acquiring a settlement in the west of Europe.

The East was the quarter on which success first began to dawn upon the British arms. The affairs of the English seemed to gain the ascendancy, by the conduct of Mr. Clive. This gentleman had at first entered the company's service in a civil capacity, but finding his talents more adapted for war, he gave up his clerkship, and joined among the troops as a volunteer. His courage, which is all that subordinate officers can at first show, soon became remarkable; but his conduct, expedition, and military skill, soon after became so conspicuous as to raise him to the first rank in the army. The first advantage that was obtained from his activity and courage was, the clearing the province of Arcot. Soon after the French general was taken prisoner; and the nabob, whom the English supported, was reinstated in the government, of which he had formerly been deprived.

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The prince of the greatest power in that country declared war against the English from motives of personal resentment, and levying a numerous army, laid siege to Calcutta, one of the principal British forts in that part of the world, but which was not in a state of strength to defend itself against the attack of even barbarians. The fort was taken, having being deserted by the commander, and the garrison, to the number of an hundred and forty-six persons, were made prisoners. They expected the usual treatment of prisoners of war, and were therefore less vigorous in their defence; but they were all crowded together in a narrow prison, called the Black Hole, of about eighteen feet square, and received the air only by two small iron windows to the west, which by no means afforded a sufficient circulation. It is terrible to reflect on the situation of these unfortunate men, shut up in this narrow place, in the burning climate of the East, and suffocating each other. Their first efforts, upon perceiving the effect of their horrid confinement, were to break open the door of the prison; but as it opened inward they soon found that impossible. They next endeavoured to excite the compassion or the avidity of the guard, by offering him a large sum of money for his assistance in removing them to separate prisons; but with this he was not able to comply, as the viceroy was asleep, and no person dared to disturb him. They were now, therefore, left to die without hopes of relief, and the whole prison was filled with groans, shrieks, contest, and despair. This turbulence, however, soon after sunk into a calm still more hideous; their efforts of strength and courage were over, and an expiring



languor succeeded. In the morning when the keepers came to visit to prison, all was horror, silence, and desolation. Of a hundred and forty-six who had entered alive, twenty-three only survived, and of these the greatest part died of putrid fevers upon being set free.

The destruction of this important fortress served to interrupt the prosperous successes of the English company; but the fortune of Mr. Clive, backed by the activity of an English fleet under admiral Watson, still turned the scale in their favour. Among the number of those who felt the power of the English in this part of the world, was the famous Tullagee Angria, a piratical prince, who had long infested the Indian Ocean, and made the princes on the coast his tributaries. He maintained a large number of gallies, and with these he attacked the largest ships, and almost ever with success. As the company had been greatly harassed by his depredations, they resolved to subdue such a dangerous enemy, and attacked him in his own fortress. In pursuance of this resolution, admiral Watson and colonel Clive sailed into his harbour of Geriah; and though they sustained a warm fire as they entered, yet they soon threw all his fleet into flames, and obliged his fort to surrender at discretion. The conquerors found there a large quantity of warlike stores, and effects to a considerable value.

Colonel Clive proceeded to take revenge for the cruelty practised upon the English. About the beginning of December, he arrived at Balasore, in the kingdom of Bengal. He met with little opposition either to the fleet or army, till they came before Calcutta, which seemed resolved to stand a regular



siege. As soon as the admiral, with two ships, arrived before the town, he received a furious fire from all the batteries, which he soon returned with still greater execution, and in less than two hours obliged them to abandon their fortifications. By these means the English took possession of the two strongest settlements on the banks of the Ganges; but that of Geriah they demolished to the ground. Soon after these successes Hughly, a city of great trade, was reduced with as little difficulty as the former, and all the viceroy of Bengal's storehouses and granaries were destroyed. In order to repair these losses, this barbarous prince assembled an army of ten thousand horse, and fifteen thousand foot, and professed a firm resolution of expelling the English from all their settlements in that part of the world. Upon the first intelligence of his march, Colonel Clive obtaining a reinforcement of men from the admiral's ships, advanced with his little army to attack these numerous forces. He attacked the enemy in three columns, and though the numbers were so disproportioned, victory soon declared in favour of the English.

The English by these victories having placed a viceroy on the throne, for the Mogul had long lost all power in India, they took care to exact such stipulations in their own favour as would secure them the possession of the country, whenever they thought proper to resume their authority. From the conquest of the Indians, Colonel Clive turned to the humbling of the French, who had long disputed empire in that part of the world, and soon dispossessed them of all their power and all their settlements.



In the mean time, while conquest shined upon us from the East, it was still more splendid in the western world. But some alterations in the ministry led to those successes which had been long wished for by the nation, and were at length obtained. The affairs of war had hitherto been directed by a ministry but ill supported by the commons, timid and wavering, and but feebly held together, rather by their fears than their mutual confidence. When any new measure was proposed which could not receive their approbation, or any new member was introduced into government whom they did not appoint, they considered it as an infringement upon their respective departments, and threw up their places in disgust, with a view to resume them with greater lustre. Thus the strength of the crown was every day declining, while an aristocracy filled up every avenue to the throne, intent only on the emolument not the duties of office. This was at that time the general opinion of the people, and it was too loud not to reach the throne. The ministry that had hitherto hedged in the throne were at length obliged to admit some men into a share of the government, whose activity at least would counterbalance their timidity and irresolution. At the head of the newly introduced party was the celebrated Mr. William Pitt, from whose vigour the nation formed very great expectations, and they were not deceived.

But though the old ministers were obliged to admit these new members into their society, there was no legal penalty for refusing to operate with them; they therefore associated with each other, and used every art to make their new assistants



obnoxious to the king, upon whom they had been in a manner forced by the people. His former ministry flattered him in all his attachments to his German dominions, while the new had long clamoured against all continental connections as utterly incompatible with the interest of the nation. These two opinions carried to the extreme might have been erroneous, but the king was naturally led to side with those who favoured his own sentiments, and to reject those who opposed them. Mr. Pitt, therefore, after being a few months in office, was ordered to resign by his majesty's command, and his coadjutor, Mr. Legge, was displaced from being chancellor of the exchequer. But this blow to his ambition was but of short continuance; the whole nation, almost to a man, seemed to rise up in his defence, and Mr. Pitt and Mr. Legge being restored to their former employments, the one as secretary of state, the other chancellor of the exchequer, began to act with vigour.

The consequences of the former ill-conducted counsels still seemed to continue in America. The generals sent over to manage the operations of the war loudly accused the timidity and delays of the natives, whose duty it was to unite in their own defence. The natives, on the other hand, as warmly expostulated against the pride, avarice, and incapacity of those sent over to command them. General Shirley who had been appointed to the supreme command there, had been for some time recalled and replaced by lord Loudon; and this nobleman also soon after returning to England, three several commanders were put at the head of separate operations. General Amherst commanded that designed



against the island of Cape Breton; the other was consigned to general Abercrombie, against Crown Point and Ticonderago; and the third, still more to the southward, against Fort du Quesne, commanded by brigadier-general Forbes.

Cape Breton which had been taken from the French, during the preceding war, had been restored at the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle. It was not till the English had been put in possession of that island that they began to perceive its advantageous situation, and the convenience of its harbour for annoying the British trade with impunity. It was also a convenient port for carrying on their fishery, a branch of commerce of the utmost benefit to that nation. The wresting it, therefore, once more from the hands of the French was a measure ardently desired by the whole nation. The fortress of Louisburg by which it was defended, had been strengthened by the assistance of art, and was still better fortified from the nature of its situation. The garrison also was numerous, the commander vigilant, and every precaution taken to oppose a landing. An account of the operations of the siege can give but little pleasure in abridgment; be it sufficient to say, that the English surmounted every obstacle with great intrepidity. Their former timidity and irresolution seemed to vanish, their natural courage and confidence returned, and the place surrendered by capitulation. The fortifications were soon after demolished, and rendered unfit for future protection.

The expedition to Fort du Quesne was equally successful, but that against Crown Point was once more defeated. This was now the second time that the English army had attempted to penetrate into



those hideous wilds by which nature had secured the French possessions in that part of the world. Braddock fell in the attempt a martyr to his impetuosity: too much caution was equally injurious to his successor. Abercrombie spent much time in marching to the place of action, and the enemy were thus perfectly prepared to give them a severe reception. As he approached Ticonderago he found them deeply intrenched at the foot of the fort, and still farther secured by fallen trees, with their branches pointing against him. These difficulties the English ardour attempted to surmount, but as the enemy, being secure in themselves, took aim at leisure, a terrible carnage of the assailants ensued, and the general, after repeated efforts, was obliged to order a retreat. The English army, however, were still superior, and it was supposed that when the artillery was arrived, something more successful might be performed: but the general felt too sensibly the terrors of the late defeat to remain in the neighbourhood of a triumphant enemy. He, therefore, withdrew his troops, and returned to his camp at Lake George, from whence he had taken his departure.

But though in this respect the English arms were unsuccessful, yet, upon the whole, the campaign was greatly in their favour. The taking of Fort du Quesne served to remove from their colonies the terror of the incursions of the Indians, while it interrupted that correspondence which ran along a chain of forts, with which the French had environed the English settlements in America. This, therefore, promised a fortunate campaign the next year, and vigorous measures were taken to ensure success.



Accordingly, on the opening of the following year, the ministry, sensible that a single effort carried on in such an extensive country could never reduce the enemy, they resolved to attack them in several parts of their empire at once. Preparations were also made, and expeditions driven forward against three different parts of North America at the same time. General Amherst, the commander in chief, with a body of twelve thousand men, was to attack Crown Point, that had hitherto been the reproach of the English army. General Wolfe was at the opposite quarter to enter the river St. Lawrence, and undertake the siege of Quebec, the capital of the French dominions in America; while general Prideaux and Sir William Johnson were to attempt a French fort near the cataracts of Niagara.

The last-named expedition was the first that succeeded. The fort of Niagara was a place of great importance, and served to command all the communication between the northern and western French settlements. The siege was begun with vigour, and promised an easy conquest, but general Prideaux was killed on the trenches by the bursting of a mortar, so that the whole command of the expedition devolved upon general Johnson, who omitted nothing to push forward the vigorous operations of his predecessor, to which also he added his own popularity with the soldiers under him. A body of French troops, who were sensible of the importance of this fort, attempted to relieve it; but Johnson attacked them with intrepidity and success, for in less than an hour their whole army was put to the rout. The garrison soon after perceiving the fate of their countrymen, surrendered prisoners of



There now, therefore, remained but one grand and decisive blow to put all North America into the possession of the English; and this was the taking of Quebec, the capital of Canada, a city handsomely built, populous, and flourishing. Admiral Saunders was appointed to command the naval part of the expedition; the siege by land was committed to the conduct of general Wolfe, of whom the nation had great expectations. This young soldier, who was not yet thirty-five, had distinguished himself on many former occasions, particularly at the siege of Louisburgh; a part of the success of which was justly ascribed to him, who without being indebted to family or connections, had raised himself by merit to his present command.

A. D.  
1759.

The war in this part of the world had been hitherto carried on with extreme barbarity ; and retaliating murders were continued without any one's knowing who first began. Wolfe , however, disdaining to imitate such example , carried on the war with all the spirit of humanity which it admits of. It is not our aim to enter into a minute detail of the siege of this city , which could at best only give amusement to a few ; it will be sufficient to say , that when we consider the situation of the town on the side of a great river , the fortifications with which it was secured , the natural strength of the country , and the great number of vessels and floating batteries the enemy



had provided for the defence of the river, and the numerous bodies of savages continually hovering round the English army, we must own there was such a combination of difficulties as might discourage and perplex the most resolute commander. The only prospect of attempting the town with success was by landing a body of troops in the night below the town, who were to clamber up the banks of the river, and take possession of the ground on the back of the city. This attempt, however, appeared peculiarly discouraging. The stream was rapid, the shore shelving, the bank above lined with centinels, the landing-place so narrow as to be easily missed in the dark, and the steepness of the ground such as hardly to be surmounted in the day-time. All these difficulties, however, were surmounted by the conduct of the general, and the bravery of the men. Colonel How, with the light infantry and the Highlanders, ascended the woody precipices with admirable courage and activity, and dislodged a small body of troops that defended a narrow pathway up the bank; thus a few mounting, the general drew the rest up in order as they arrived. Monsieur de Montcalm, the French commander, was no sooner apprised that the English had gained these heights, which he had confidently deemed inaccessible, than he resolved to hazard a battle, and a furious encounter quickly begun. This was one of the most desperate engagements during this war. The French general was slain; the second in command shared the same fate. General Wolfe was stationed on the right, where the attack was most warm; as he stood conspicuous in the front line, he had been



aimed at by the enemy's marksmen, and received a shot in the wrist, which, however, did not oblige him to quit the field. Having wrapped a handkerchief round his hand, he continued giving orders without the least emotion, and advanced at the head of the grenadiers with their bayonets fixed; but a second ball more fatal, pierced his breast; so that, unable to proceed, he leaned on the shoulder of a soldier who was next him. Now struggling in the agonies of death, and just expiring, he heard a voice cry. « they run ! » upon which he seemed for a moment to revive, and asking who ran, was informed the French. Expressing his wonder that they ran so soon, and unable to gaze any longer, he sunk on the soldier's breast, and his last words were, « I die happy. »

The surrender of Quebec was the consequence of this victory, and with it soon after the total cession of all Canada. The French indeed the following season made a vigorous effort to retake the city; but by the resolution of governor Murray, and the appearance of an English fleet under the command of lord Colville, they were obliged to abandon the enterprise. The whole province was soon after reduced by the prudence and activity of general Amherst, who obliged the French army to capitulate, and it has since remained annexed to the British empire. To these conquests about the same time was added the reduction of the island of Guadaloupe, under commodore More and general Hopson, an acquisition of great importance; but which was restored at the succeeding peace. These successes in India and America were great,



though achieved by no very expensive efforts ; on the contrary, the efforts the English made in Europe, and the operations of their great ally, the king of Prussia, were astonishing, yet produced no signal advantages.

England was all this time happily retired from the miseries which oppressed the rest of Europe ; yet from her natural military ardour she seemed desirous of sharing those dangers, of which she was only a spectator. This passion for sharing in a continental war was not less pleasing to the king of England, from his native attachments, than from a desire of revenge upon the plunderers of his country. As soon therefore as it was known that prince Ferdinand had put himself at the head of the Hanoverian army, to assist the king of Prussia, his Britannic majesty, in a speech to his parliament, observed that the late successes of his ally in Germany had given a happy turn to his affairs, which it would be necessary to improve. The commons concurred in his sentiments, and liberally granted supplies both for the service of the king of Prussia, and for enabling the army formed in Hanover to act vigorously in conjunction with him.

From sending money over into Germany, the nation began to extend their benefits ; and it was soon considered that men would be a more grateful supply. M. Pitt, who had at first come into popularity and power by opposing such measures, was now prevailed on to enter into them with even greater ardour than any of his predecessors. The hopes of putting a speedy end to the war by vigorous measures, the connections with which he



was obliged to co-operate, and perhaps the pleasure he found in pleasing the king, all together incited him to push forward a continental war. However, he only conspired with the general inclinations of the people at this time, who, allured by the noble efforts of their only ally, were unwilling to see him fall a sacrifice to the united ambition of his enemies.

In order to indulge this general inclination of assisting the king of Prussia, the duke of Marlborough was at first sent into Germany with a small body of British forces to join prince Ferdinand, whose activity against the French began to be crowned with success. After some small successes gained by the allied army at Crevelt, the duke of Marlborough dying, his command devolved upon lord George Sackville who was at that time a favourite with the English army. However, a misunderstanding between him and the commander in chief, unfortunately took place at the battle of Minden, which was fought soon after. The cause of this secret disgust on both sides, is not clearly known; it is thought that the extensive genius, and the inquisitive spirit of the English general, were by no means agreeable to his superior in command, who hoped to reap some pecuniary advantages, the other was unwilling to permit. Be this as it will, both armies advancing near the town of Minden, the French began the attack with great vigour, and a general engagement of the infantry ensued. Lord George, at the head of the British and Hanoverian horse, was stationed at some distance on the right of the infantry, from which they were divided by a scanty wood that



bordered on a heath. The French infantry giving ground, the prince thought that this would be a favourable opportunity to pour down the horse among them, and accordingly sent lord George orders to come on. These orders were but ill obeyed; and whether they were unintelligible or contradictory, still remains a point for posterity to debate upon. It is certain that lord George was shortly after recalled, tried by a court-martial, found guilty, and declared incapable of serving in any military command for the future. The enemy, however, were repulsed in all their attacks, with considerable loss, and at length giving way, were pursued to the very ramparts of Minden.

After these victories, which were greatly magnified in England, it was supposed that one reinforcement more of British troops would terminate the war in favour of the allies, and a reinforcement was quickly sent. The British army in Germany now, therefore, amounted to above thirty thousand men, and the whole nation was flushed with the hopes of immediate conquest. But these hopes soon vanished in finding victory and defeat successively following each other. The allies were worsted at Corback, but retrieved their honour at Exdorf. A victory at Warbourg followed shortly after and another at Zirenberg, but then they suffered a defeat at Compen, after which both sides went into winter-quarters. The successes thus on either side might be considered as a compact by which both engaged to lose much and gain little; for no advantages whatever followed from victory. The English at length began to open their eyes to their own interest, and found that they were



waging unequal war, and loading themselves with taxes for conquests that they could neither preserve nor enjoy.

It must be confessed, that the efforts of England at this time over every part of the globe, were amazing: and the expence of her operations greater than had ever been disbursed by any nation before. The king of Prussia received a subsidy; a large body of English forces commanded the extensive peninsula of India; another army of twenty thousand men confirmed their conquests in North America; there were thirty thousand men employed in Germany, and several other bodies dispersed in different garrisons in various parts of the world: but all these were nothing to the force maintained at sea, which carried command wherever it came, and had totally annihilated the French power on that element. The courage and the conduct of the English admirals had surpassed whatever had been read of in history; neither superior force, nor number, nor even the terrors of tempest could intimidate them. Admiral Hawke gained a complete victory over an equal number of French ships, on the coast of Bretagne, in Quiberon Bay, in the midst of a tempest, during the darkness of the night, and, what a seaman fears still more, upon a rocky shore.

Such was the glorious figure the British nation appeared in to all the world at this time. But while their arms prospered in every effort tending to the real interests of the nation, an event happened, which for a while obscured the splendour of her victories. On the twenty-fifth of October, the king, without having complained of any pre-



vious disorder, was found by his domestics expiring in his chamber. He had arisen at his usual hour, and observed to his attendants, that as the weather was fine he would take a walk in the gardens of Kensington, where he then resided. In a few minutes after his return, being left alone, he was heard to fall down upon the floor. The noise of this bringing his attendants into the room, they lifted him into bed, where he desired, with a faint voice, that the princess Amelia might be sent for, but before she could reach the apartment he expired. An attempt was made to bleed him, but without effect; and afterwards the surgeons, upon opening him, discovered that the right ventricle of the heart was actually ruptured, and that a great quantity of blood was discharged through the aperture.

Oct. 25. George the Second died in the seventy-  
1760. seventh year of his age, and the thirty-  
third of his reign; lamented by his subjects, and in the midst of victory. If any monarch was happy in the peculiar mode of his death, and the precise time of its arrival, it was he. The universal enthusiasm of the people for conquest was now beginning to subside, and sober reason to take her turn in the administration of affairs. The factions which had been nursing during his long reign, had not yet come to maturity; but threatened, with all their virulence, to afflict his successor. He was, himself, of no shining abilities; and while he was permitted to guide and assist his German dominions, he entrusted the care of Britain to his ministers at home. His character is thus delivered by two writers of opposite opinions.

« On whatever side, » says his panegyrist, « we



look upon his character, we shall find ample matter for just and unsuspecting praise. None of his predecessors on the throne of England lived to so great an age, or enjoyed longer felicity. His subjects were still improving under him in commerce and arts; and his own economy set a prudent example to the nation, which, however, they did not follow. He was in his temper sudden and violent, but this, though it influenced his conduct, made no change in his behaviour, which was generally guided by reason. He was plain and direct in his intentions; true to his word, steady in his favour and protection to his servants, not parting even with his ministers till compelled to it by the violence of faction. In short, through the whole of his life, he appeared rather to live for the cultivation of useful virtues than splendid ones; and satisfied with being good, left others their unenvied greatness.»

Such is the picture given by his friends, but there are others who reverse the medal. «As to the extent of his understanding, or the splendour of his virtues, we rather wish for opportunities of praise, than undertake the task ourselves. His public character was marked with a predilection for his native country, and to that he sacrificed all other considerations. He was not only unlearned himself, but he despised learning in others; and though genius might have flourished in his reign, yet he neither promoted it by his influence nor his example. His frugality bordered upon avarice, and he hoarded not for his subjects, but himself. He was remarkable for no one great virtue, and was known to practise several of the meaner vices.» Which of these two characters are true, or whether they may



not in part be both so, I will not pretend to decide. If his favourites are numerous, so are those who oppose them; let posterity, therefore, decide the contest.

## CHAPTER XXXVI.

GEORGE III.

A. D. 1760.

GEORGE the second was succeeded by his grandson king George the third, whose father never ascended the throne, having died while he was only prince of Wales. His majesty's first care, after his accession, was to assemble the parliament, which met in November, and settled the annual sum of 800,000*l.* upon the king for the support of his household, and of the honour and dignity of his crown, or, as it is usually called, the civil list. The whole supply, for the service of the ensuing year, amounted to 19,616,119*l.* 19*s.* 9  $\frac{3}{4}$  *d.* an immense sum, which none but a commercial nation could raise, but which yet perhaps was not greater than was absolutely necessary for carrying on the various operations of the very extensive war in which we were then engaged.

As his majesty could not espouse a Roman Catholic, he was precluded from intermarrying into any of the great families of Europe; he therefore chose a wife from the house of Mecklenburgh Strelitz, the head of a small but sovereign state in the north-west of Germany; and the nuptials were



celebrated on the eighth of September; and on the twenty - second of the same month the ceremony of the coronation was performed with great pomp and magnificence in Westminster-abbey.

A. D.  
1761.

This year was not distinguished by any capital military operation in Europe. In the East - Indies the nabob of Bengal was deposed, and his son-in-law advanced in his room. That country, like all other barbarous countries, is subject to sudden revolutions, for which perhaps it is not more remarkable than for the acts of cruelty, peculation, and oppression, that are there practised by the Europeans.

Mr. Pitt, who, though never very acceptable to the late king, had conducted the war with a spirit and success not exceeded, and perhaps never equalled, by any former minister, was no less distinguished for his sagacity and penetration in diving into the designs and intrigues of the enemy. He had for some time observed, with the highest indignation, the extreme partiality of the Spaniards towards the French, notwithstanding their professions of neutrality, he now discovered by means of his spies in foreign courts, that they had entered into a treaty (known by the name of the Family-Compact) with that ambitious people; and he was firmly convinced, that it would not be long before they declared war in form against England. Moved by these considerations, he proposed, that a fleet should be immediately dispatched into the Mediterranean, to intercept the Spanish flota, or strike some other blow of importance, in case the ministry of Spain refused to give instant satisfaction.



to the court of Great-Britain. This proposal was strongly opposed by the other members of the cabinet, either from a conviction of its impropriety, or perhaps in order to get rid of a minister, who, by means of his popularity, and the success of his schemes, had acquired an ascendancy in parliament, and even in the council, that, in some measure, annihilated the hereditary influence of all the oldest, most wealthy, and most powerful families in the kingdom. In a word, it was disapproved by every member of the cabinet, Mr. Pitt, and earl Temple excepted; upon which these two ministers resigned their places; the former, as secretary of state, and the latter, as lord privy seal. That Mr. Pitt however might not be suffered to retire from the public service without some mark of royal as well as national gratitude, a pension of 3000 l. a year, was settled upon him for three lives; and at the same time a title was conferred upon his lady, who was created baroness Chatham.

The experience of a few months served to shew that Mr. Pitt's suspicions were too well founded: for when the earl of Bristol, the British ambassador at Madrid, endeavoured to procure a sight of the family - compact, and to sound the sentiments of the Spanish ministry with regard to their intention of taking part with France in the present war, he received nothing but evasive answers, or flat refusals to all his demands. He therefore left Madrid without taking leave, and as the hostile designs of Spain were now no longer doubtful, war was, in a little time, declared against that nation.

The old parliament was now dissolved, and a new one summoned, one of the first acts of which



was to settle an annuity of 100,000 l. together with the palace of Somerset-house, ( afterwards exchanged for Buckingham-house ) and the lodge and lands of Richmond old park, upon the queen during her life, in case she should survive his majesty. The supply for the ensuing year fell short of that of the current one by somewhat more than a million.

Till the resignation of Mr. Pitt, no material change had been made in the ministry during the present reign. It continued nearly the same as it was at the death of the late king, with this only difference, that lord Bute ( who was supposed to be a particular favourite of his majesty ) had been introduced into the cabinet, and appointed secretary of state in the room of the earl of Holderness.

A more important alteration, however, now took place in it. An opinion had been long entertained, at least it was very industriously propagated by certain persons, that the Pelham family had been as complete masters of the cabinet during the latter years of king George the second's reign, as ever the Marlborough family was during a part of that of queen Anne. A resolution, it is said, was therefore taken to get rid of the Pelhams and all their connections. The duke of Newcastle was made so uneasy in his situation, that he resigned his post of first lord of the Treasury, and was succeeded by the earl of Bute. This gave occasion to a most furious paper war between the friends and adherents of those two noblemen, and naturally tended to revive in the kingdom the spirit of party.

The duke of Newcastle, it must be owned, was

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1762.



not a man of great abilities, though his brother, Henry Pelham, undoubtedly was. But even the duke, with all the defects in his character, was perhaps not ill qualified to be a popular minister in a free country. He was open, liberal, disinterested, hospitable, splendid and magnificent in his style of living. Instead of amassing places and pensions for himself and his family, he laid out his own patrimony in supporting what he considered as the honour of the king and the dignity of the nation; and when, upon his retiring from office in somewhat narrow and reduced circumstances, he was offered a pension, he nobly replied, that after having spent a princely fortune in the service of his country, rather than become a burden to it at last, he would make his old duchess a washerwoman.

Lord Bute, on the other hand, was certainly a man of ability, and we believe even of virtue; but perhaps he was deficient in that easiness of address and those engaging manners, without which no minister can ever expect to be long popular in England. As he was a man of taste and learning, had he continued groom of the stole, which place he held at the time of his majesty's accession, he might easily have passed for the Mæcenæ of the age. Every favour, which the king might have bestowed upon men of letters, would have been considered as originating from his advice, and owing to his recommendation; whereas by plunging into politics, for which he was but ill qualified, he at once diminished for a while the popularity of his sovereign, and perplexed the councils of his country.



The war, however, was still carried on with the same spirit and success as formerly. Two expeditions were undertaken against the Spanish settlements; the one against the Havannah, in the gulph of Mexico, the other against Manilla, in the East - Indies; and both of them proved successful. The plunder found in the first amounted to three millions sterling; the latter was ransomed for one million, which was never paid. The king of Prussia, then our principal, and indeed almost our only ally, had performed such prodigies of valour in the course of this war, as will transmit his name to posterity as one of the greatest heroes that ever lived. For some time past, however, he had been surrounded and assailed by such a number of powerful and inveterate foes, that he seemed almost to be tottering on the very brink of ruin, when he was unexpectedly and almost miraculously, saved by one of those sudden revolutions of fortune that sometimes take place in all countries, and are often attended with consequences that no human sagacity could have foreseen, nor any human power have possibly brought about. Elizabeth, the empress of Russia, dying, was succeeded by her nephew, Peter the third, who not only concluded a peace with the king of Prussia, but joining his arms to those of that monarch, began to act hostilely against his former allies. By this step, however, and some others, he rendered himself so unpopular with his subjects that, after wearing the crown for the space of six months, he was deposed, and soon after died in prison of the disease, it is thought, which terminates the lives of most dethroned monarchs. His consort and suc-



cessor, Catherine, departed so far from the plan of her husband as to withdraw her forces from those of the king of Prussia; but she did not think proper to renew hostilities against him. Being thus freed from one of his most formidable enemies, he was the more capable of coping with the rest.

This was one of the most glorious and successful wars for Great-Britain that had ever been carried on in any age or by any nation. In the space of seven years, she had made herself mistress of the whole continent of North America: she had conquered twenty-five islands, all of them remarkable for their magnitude, their produce, or the importance of their situation: she had won, by sea and land, twelve great battles; she had reduced nine fortified cities and towns, and near forty forts and castles; she had destroyed or taken above an hundred ships of war from her enemies; and acquired, as it is supposed, about twelve millions in plunder. Uncommon, however, as were her successes, she was far from being averse to a peace. The grand object for which the war had been originally undertaken, the security of our American colonies, was now fully accomplished. Her supplies of money, however great, were by no means equal to her expences; and she began to feel a sensible deficiency in her supplies of men, which were not procured but with some difficulty, and at a heavy charge. The other belligerent Powers, for more solid and substantial reasons, were still more inclined to peace. The navy of France was almost annihilated; and her dominions were exhausted of men and money. Spain had nothing to hope, but every thing to fear from a continuance of the war; and Portugal, who



who had lately been drawn into the quarrel, and attacked by the Bourbon family, was in a still worse condition. All parties, therefore, concurring in these pacific sentiments, conferences for a peace were opened at Paris; and, after some negotiations, it was finally concluded on the 10th day of February. Great-Britain received Florida in exchange for the Havannah. She retained Canada, Cape Breton, Tobago, Dominica, St. Vincent, the Grenade, and Senegal on the coast of Africa: but she restored all her other conquests. A peace was soon after concluded between the empress-queen of Hungary and his Prussian majesty; and thus the general tranquillity of Europe was happily reestablished. At the conclusion of the war, the national debt of Great-Britain amounted to about one hundred and forty-eight millions; the annual interest to little less than five millions.

A. D.  
1763.

The cry of favouritism, which was raised against lord Bute, immediately upon his introduction into the ministry, had hitherto been kept up with great violence and animosity; and a tax which had lately been imposed upon cyder served at last to complete his downfall. He resigned his place as first lord of the Treasury in the month of April, and was succeeded by Mr. George Grenville. The attention of the public was now turned from the war of the sword to that of the pen. Many furious papers and pamphlets were published by the partizans of both parties. But one of the most furious of the whole was a periodical paper, entitled the North Briton, conducted, it is said, and principally composed by Mr. Wilkes, member for Aylesbury, a gentleman



of wit and spirit, but not of the most rigid principles. This gentleman having, in number 45 of the North Briton, attacked the king's speech to the parliament with a very indecent freedom, a general warrant was issued for taking up the authors, printers, and publishers of that paper. Mr. Wilkes was seized and committed to the Tower. Several innocent printers were at the same time apprehended; but they afterwards brought their actions against the messengers who had seized them, and recovered considerable damages. Mr. Wilkes, too, upon bringing his *habeas-corpus* before the court of common pleas, was released from the Tower by a decision of that court, which declared that privilege of parliament extended to the case of writing a libel. The house of commons were of a different opinion. They resolved that number 45 of the North Briton was a false, scandalous, and seditious libel, and that privilege of parliament did not extend to the case of writing such a libel. Soon after Mr. Wilkes fought a duel with Mr. Martin, a member of parliament, and late secretary to the Treasury, whose character he had attacked in his writings. In this engagement he received a dangerous wound, from which, however, he recovered, and he had no sooner done so, than he thought proper to retire into France. In the month of January he was expelled the house of commons; and not appearing to the indictments preferred against him for publishing the North Briton, and for some other charges, he was at last run to an outlawry; and the suits, which he had commenced against the secretaries of state for false imprisonment, fell, of

A. D.

1764.



course to the ground. General warrants were afterwards declared to be illegal by a resolution of both houses ; and this , indeed , seems to be the chief advantage resulting from this violent dispute between Mr. Wilkes and the ministry. In the course of the year the protestant interest was still further strengthened by the marriage of his majesty's eldest sister , the princess Augusta , to the hereditary prince of Brunswick.

Little happened in the other parts of the world this year that deserves to be mentioned in a History of England , except the choice of a king of Poland in the person of count Poniatowski , a native Pole ; the death of prince Ivan or John , who in 1739 had mounted the throne of Russia , and was soon after deposed , who had remained in prison ever since , and was now murdered by his guards ; and the massacre of about forty of our own countrymen in the East Indies , by order of Cossim Ali Cawn , the deposed subah of Bengal , and under the direction of one Somers , a German , a deserter from the company's service. Such scenes of cruelty may naturally be supposed to happen sometimes in a country , where the natives are ignorant and barbarous , and the strangers , or as they call them , the intruders , are actuated by an insatiable spirit of plunder and rapacity.

In the beginning of next year were kindled the first sparks of that fire , which , though it did not blaze out all at once , and might even have been extinguished in its progress , yet , in a little time after , broke out into a conflagration , that wrapt a great part of Europe and all North America in its flames. What I

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1765.



allude to is the stamp-act, that was now imposed upon our American colonies, and to which they almost unanimously refused to submit; and though it was repealed in the succeeding session, yet they seem never entirely to have forgot, nor heartily to have forgiven it.

The spirit of party which was now so general as well as violent, was attended with one very great inconvenience. It was productive of such a mutability in public men, and consequently in public measures and councils, that we had a new ministry and new measures almost with every new year. This naturally tended to weaken the authority of government, both at home and abroad. Foreign nations were averse to enter into any close connection or alliance with a people, whose public councils were so very fluctuating; and the inferior ranks of men at home lost all that reverence and respect for their rulers, which is so necessary to the support of order and good government. The Grenville administration was now forced to make way for that of the marquis of Rockingham, who was appointed first lord of the treasury in the room of Mr. Grenville. The marquis himself, indeed, was a nobleman of as much purity of intention, of as disinterested principles, and of as genuine and unaffected patriotism, as ever distinguished any minister either in ancient or modern times; and by these good qualities of his heart, he, in some measure, compensated for that mediocrity of understanding, beyond which even his warmest admirers never alledged that his capacity extended. The chief business of this ministry was to undo all that their predecessors had done, particularly repealing the stamp and cyder acts; as,



on the other hand, all that they now did, was, in its turn, undone by their successors in office. The detached events of this year were neither numerous nor important; it was chiefly distinguished by the death of some eminent personages, particularly of the emperor of Germany, who was succeeded by his son Joseph; the dauphin of France; his majesty's uncle, the duke of Cumberland; his youngest brother, prince William Frederic; and the old Pretender, who died at Rome in the seventy-seventh year of his age.

The new year, as usual, gave a new set of ministers. The duke of Grafton succeeded the marquis of Rockingham as first lord of the treasury; several other changes were made in the inferior departments of the state; and the custody of the privy-seal was bestowed upon Mr. Pitt, now created earl of Chatham, at whose recommendation, it is said, this ministry was formed. The affairs of the East-India company were at this time greatly embarrassed by the avarice and rapacity of their servants; under the specious pretence of presents, they had got into the habit of extorting large sums from the princes of the country, by which means the very name of an Englishman was become so odious, that it was greatly to be feared a general combination of the natives would be formed to expel us from our settlements in that part of the world. Lord Clive, therefore, was sent out to India, in order to put a stop to this growing evil, which, upon his arrival there, he effectually did; and soon after concluded an advantageous treaty with the Mogul, as put the company in possession of a clear revenue of one

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million seven hundred thousand pounds sterling a year. His lordship himself, it is true, had made as large a fortune in the East Indies as perhaps ever was made there by any other British or European subject; but at the same time, in doing so, he had performed the most signal and important services to his country, while others amassed princely fortunes without benefit either to their country, or to the East-India company.

A. D.  
1767.

As the American war was a most important event, no circumstance, however seemingly trivial, that serves to mark the progress of the growing animosity between the mother country and her colonies, ought to be passed over in silence. For this reason it is, that we shall just observe, that an act of parliament had been lately made, enjoining the colonies to furnish his majesty's troops with necessaries in their quarters. This act the colony of New York had refused to obey; and another act was now therefore passed, restraining the assembly of that province from making any laws until they had complied with the terms of the first mentioned statute. The Americans, on their side, expressed their dissatisfaction at this restraint, by coming to severe resolutions against the importation of European, by which they no doubt meant British commodities.

A. D.  
1768.

The natural date of the present parliament being now near expiring, it was dissolved in the spring, and writs were issued for electing a new one. A general election is always a time of a riot and confusion; and, considering the violence of parties, it was generally apprehended, that the present would be productive



of more than ordinary disturbance. These fears, however, were happily disappointed. The elections were carried on with tolerable order in most parts of the kingdom, except at Preston, and a few other places, where some outrages were committed. Mr. Wilkes, who had remained abroad an outlaw ever since the year 1763, now returned home, and even while the outlawry was in full force, offered himself a candidate for the county of Middlesex, for which he was chosen in opposition to Sir William Beauchamp Proctor, one of the former members, by a very great majority. Great doubts were at first entertained whether an outlaw could be chosen member of parliament; but so many precedents were produced in the affirmative, that the legality of the practice was put beyond controversy. Being now secure, as he thought, of a seat in parliament, Mr. Wilkes surrendered himself to the court of king's-bench, by whom the outlawry was reversed, and he was sentenced to suffer an imprisonment of two years, and to pay a fine of one thousand pounds. As he was esteemed by many persons as a kind of martyr in the cause of public liberty, a subscription was opened by some merchants of London, and other gentlemen of property, for paying his fine, supporting him while in prison, and compounding his debts, amounting to above twenty thousand pounds; and all these purposes were, in the end, completely accomplished.

As we consider the Middlesex election, and the feuds and animosities which it excited in the nation, though not as the primary, yet as the great secondary cause of the American war, we shall be particularly attentive to every circumstance relating



to that singular transaction, and even to Mr. Wilkes, the principal agent concerned in it. This, indeed, is the great hinge upon which the political events of the present reign for many years turned; it is that which gave occasion to sudden changes of ministers, and dangerous resolutions of parliament, that would never else have taken place; and it encouraged our foreign dependencies to take advantage of our internal divisions, and the consequent weakness and unpopularity of government, by laying claim to several privileges and immunities, to which they would otherwise have never dared to pretend.

This year his majesty established the Royal Academy of Arts, for instructing young men in the principle of architecture, sculpture, and painting. The artists had, long before this, formed themselves into a society, and had carried their respective arts to a very high degree of perfection under the patronage of the public. The new institution, therefore, had for some time little other effect than to split the artists into parties. At last, however, they were happily reunited.

Fresh fuel still continued to be added to the flame that now began to blaze out between Great Britain and her American colonies. By an act of parliament lately passed, certain duties were imposed upon glass, paper, and a few other articles imported from England into the colonies; and, for the purpose of collecting these duties, custom-houses were established in their sea-ports. Provoked at this invasion of their liberties, as they considered it, they now came to a direct, as they had formerly done to an indirect, resolution to discontinue the use of British commodities, until these



duties should be repealed ; to effect which , the assembly of Boston wrote circular letters to all the other assemblies , proposing an union of councils and measures. For this step the assembly of Boston was dissolved, and a new one convened ; but this proved as refractory as the former , and was therefore , in a little time , likewise dissolved. The commissioners of the customs were so roughly handled by the populace , that they thought proper to leave the town , and retire to Fort William. In a word , the spirit of discontent became so prevalent at Boston , that two regiments of foot were ordered thither from Halifax , and as many from Ireland. A new phenomenon appeared in Asia. One Hyder Ally , who had raised himself from the rank of a common seapoy to that of a sovereign prince , commenced hostilities against the East India company , and in the course of his reign , gave greater disturbance to our settlements there , than any of the old and hereditary nabobs.

When the new parliament met , the people imagined that Mr. Wilkes would take his seat along with the other members. In expectation of this , many of them assembled in St. George's-fields , near the king's bench prison , where he was confined , with a view of conducting him to the house of commons. The Surry justices soon came among them , and the riot act was read ; but the people not dispersing , the military were called in , and were ordered , perhaps unadvisedly , to fire. Several persons were slightly wounded , two or three mortally , and one was killed on the spot. Lord Weymouth , one of the secretaries of state , sent a let-



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ter to the justices, thanking them for their spirited conduct in this affair. Mr. Wilkes, who was no unconcerned spectator of the whole scene, took this opportunity of expressing his resentment against the ministry, whom he regarded as the authors of all the persecutions he had suffered. He published lord Weymouth's letter, with a few remarks of his own prefixed to it, in which he termed the affair in St. George's-fields a horrid massacre; and this step was either considered as a reason, or was made a pretence, for expelling him the house. The freeholders of Middlesex, however, immediately and unanimously reelected him their representative. This election was declared void, and a new writ was issued. The freeholders still persevered in their former sentiments; and Mr. Wilkes was elected a third time without opposition. A gentleman indeed, of the name of Dingley, intended to have opposed him; but the popular current ran so strong in favour of M. Wilkes, that he could not find a single person to put him in nomination. This election was declared void, as well as the preceding; and lest the freeholders of Middlesex and the house of commons should go on for ever, the one in electing Mr. Wilkes, and the other in declaring his election invalid, colonel Luttrell, son to lord Ingham, and a member of parliament, was persuaded to vacate his seat, and to offer himself a candidate; and though he had only 296 votes, and Mr. Wilkes 1143, yet he was declared in the house, by a great majority, to be the legal member.

This was considered as a fatal blow to the liber-



ties of the people, at least to the right of election, the most vital and essential part of those liberties. This poured poison into the political wound, that rendered it perfectly incurable. The Middlesex election may hitherto be regarded merely as a common controverted election, in which none but Mr. Wilkes and his opponents were concerned; from this time forward it assumed a more important aspect. Instead of a private it became a national concern. The whole body of the people took the alarm. They thought they foresaw in the destruction of the rights of the freeholders of Middlesex, the utter ruin and subversion of their own. The consequence was, that petitions first, and remonstrances afterwards, poured in from the different counties and corporations of the kingdom. Many of these were of a very bold, and some of a most daring nature. They not only prayed for a dissolution of parliament, but they even denied the legality of the present one, the validity of its acts, and the obligation of the people to obey them. In a word they asserted that the government was actually dissolved.

The ministry had now brought themselves into a most disagreeable dilemma. They ought either not to have proceeded so far, or they ought to have gone farther. They ought either not to have furnished the people with a just cause, nor even with a plausible pretence for presenting such remonstrances, or they ought to have punished them for daring to present them. This, however, they did not think it prudent, nor perhaps even safe, to attempt. The consequence is obvious. While the authority of govern-

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ment was thus vilified and despised at home, can it be imagined that it should be much revered or respected abroad? While it was openly insulted and brow beat in the very metropolis, and under the eye of the legislature, could it be expected, that it should be able to maintain its usual force and vigour in the extreme parts of the empire? The supposition is absurd. He, therefore, who does not perceive, in the rashness and pusillanimity of the ministers with regard to the Middlesex election, the seeds of the American war, must be furnished with optics of a very singular, and, in our opinion, a very unnatural structure. Some of the freeholders of Middlesex even attempted to carry their speculative principles on this subject into practice. They refused to pay the land tax; and the matter was brought to a trial. But the jury determined, that they were obliged to pay it; and, in so doing, they discovered more firmness and fortitude than their rulers.

In the course of this year a very important act was passed for regulating the proceedings of the house of commons in controverted elections. These used formerly to be determined by the house at large, and by a majority of votes, so that they were considered merely as party-matters, and the strongest party, which was always that of the ministry, was sure to carry the point without paying the least regard to the merits of the question on either side. But by the bill which was now passed, commonly called the Grenville act, as it was drawn up and brought in by Mr. Grenville, they were ordered for the future to be decided by a committee of thirteen members chosen by lot, and under the sacred obligations



obligations of an oath ; and since the enacting of this law , no well grounded complaint has been made against the impartiality of their decisions.

Though the present ministry were supposed to have been originally recommended to his majesty by lord Chatham , and to have been guided for some time , in all their measures , by his advice , yet as they had of late affected to stand upon their own bottom , and neglected to consult him as usual , he entirely abandoned them and resigned his office as keeper of the privy-seal which was bestowed on the earl of Bristol. His example was soon after followed by the duke of Grafton , who was succeeded as first lord of the treasury by lord North ; and thus , unhappily for the nation , was formed that ministry which began the American war without necessity , conducted it without spirit or prudence , and at last concluded it without honour or advantage , nay with infinite dishonour and disadvantage , as they cut off from the empire the immense continent of North America , the brightest jewel in the crown.

This year our ministers gave a fresh proof of their pusillanimity with regard to foreign politics , as they had already done with respect to our domestic concerns. They quietly suffered the French to make a conquest of Corsica , a small island in the mediterranean. This island had formerly belonged to the Genoese , who by their cruelty and oppression , had driven the natives into a revolt , which they kept up for some time with great spirit and perseverance , under the conduct of their gallant countryman Paoli , and at last freed themselves from the dominion of their tyrannical masters. These



last, therefore, unable to recover the island themselves, made it over to the French, who soon subdued it; though not, it is said, till it had cost them more than its real value. They lost in this undertaking ten thousand men, and they expended eighteen millions of livres. Many people thought the English ought to have opposed this addition, however small, to the French monarchy; but our ministers were so weak and unpopular, and the growing quarrel between this country and America became every day so much more alarming, that their maxim at this time, with regard to foreign nations, seems to have been, Let us alone, and we will let you alone. The French, however, soon after shewed them that their conduct was directed by very different maxims. About the same time a rupture had like to have happened between this country and Spain, about a very insignificant place, called Falkland's Island, in the southern part of the Atlantic ocean. Matters for some time wore a very hostile aspect; but at last the quarrel was amicably adjusted.

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The Middlesex election, though the spirit of petitioning had in some measure subsided, still gave rise to some singular occurrences that are well worthy of notice. A messenger of the house of commons having come into the city to seize a printer for publishing the speeches of the members, this last sent for a constable, who carried both him and the messenger before Mr. Crosby the lord-mayor. That gentleman, together with the aldermen Wilkes and Oliver, not only discharged the printer, but required the messenger to give bail to answer the com-



plaint of the printer against him , for daring to seize him in the city without the order of a magistrate , and upon his refusing to do so , they signed a warrant for his commitment to prison ; upon which he consented to give bail , and was suffered to depart. The commons fired at this contempt of their authority , as they thought it , ordered the lord-mayor and the two aldermen to appear before them. Mr. Crosby and Mr. Oliver , as members of the house , attended , and in their place ; but Mr. Wilkes refused to appear , unless he was permitted to take his seat for Middlesex. As they had no method of coming at the latter gentleman , they contented themselves with punishing the two former. They were accordingly sent to the Tower , where they continued in confinement till the end of the session. This year a dreadful famine happened in the East Indies , which , according to some accounts , carried off about one-third of the inhabitants , that is , about ten millions of people. This scourge of heaven is said to have been still further exasperated by the villany of men. Many of the company's servants were accused of having bought up the greatest part of the rice , ( the chief or almost the only food of the natives , as the Pythagorean system which they follow , prohibits them the use of animal food ) and to have sold it out at such an exorbitant price as to put it absolutely beyond the reach of the poorer sort of the people.

Elective kingdoms are subject to such violent shocks and convulsions upon every vacancy of the throne , that it has been thought proper , in most of the modern states of Europe , to establish heredi-



tary monarchies; and even in these last a disputed title is always attended with such civil wars and bloodshed, that it has been found expedient to keep the line of succession as clear and distinct as possible. This is the reason why so much attention is given in this country to the marriages of the royal family. The king's two brothers, the dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland, having married privately, the former, the countess dowager of Waldegrave, the latter a widow lady of the name of

A. D. Horton, daughter to lord Irnham, a  
1772. bill was now passed enacting, that all the descendants of his late majesty (other than the issue of the princesses who have married, or may hereafter marry into foreign families) shall be incapable of contracting marriage without the previous consent of the king, or his successors on the throne, signified under the great seal, and declared in council; that every such marriage without such consent, shall be null and void; that, nevertheless, such descendants, being above the age of twenty-five years, upon their giving the privy council twelve months previous notice of their design, may after the expiration of that term, enter into marriage without the royal consent, unless both houses of parliament shall within that time expressly declare their disapprobation of it; and that all persons who shall knowingly presume to solemnize or assist at the celebration of such illicit marriage, shall be liable to all the pains and penalties of the statute of præmunire.

In the course of this session a material alteration was made in the criminal law of the kingdom.



Formerly, when a felon refused to plead, he was stretched out upon his back at full length, and a heavy weight laid upon his breast, which was gradually, though slowly, increased till he expired ; during which operation he was fed with nothing but a crust of bread and some dirty water. By a bill, which was now passed, this barbarous practice was abolished, and all felons refusing to plead are adjudged to be guilty of the crimes laid to their charge.

An act of injustice was committed this year by three of the first crowned heads in Europe, which, though not immediately connected with the history of England, ought not to be passed over in silence. It was indeed of so flagrant and atrocious a nature, that, for a similar one in private life, the authors would have been brought to condign punishment. What I allude to, is the dismemberment of Poland. The emperor of Germany, the king of Prussia, and the empress of Russia, entered into a confederacy, or rather a conspiracy (for a most villanous conspiracy it was) to divide among themselves the better part of that fertile country, to which they pleaded some antiquated claims ; and to form the rest into an independent kingdom, to be governed by the present sovereign, with an hereditary instead of an elective title : and as none of the other powers of Europe thought proper to interrupt them in the prosecution of their scheme, they were at last fully able to accomplish their purpose. This year was likewise distinguished by a remarkable revolution in the government of Sweden, as well as that of Denmark. The king of Sweden, in violation of the most sacred engagements he had come under at his



accession, raised himself from being the most limited, to be one of the most absolute monarchs in Europe. In Denmark, the king was deprived of the whole sovereign power, which was engrossed by his mother-in-law, the queen dowager, and his half brother, prince Frederick. His two principal favourites, the counts Struensee and Brandt, were brought to the block. Even the queen-consort, Matilda, sister to his Britannic majesty, very narrowly escaped with her life. She afterwards retired to Zell in Germany, where she lived for a few years, at the end of which she sickened and died.

To give some check to the rapacity of the East-India company's servants abroad, a supreme court of judicature was now established at Bengal, consisting of a chief justice, with a salary of 8000 l. and three inferior judges with a salary of 6000 l.

A. D. 1773. About this time the common people of Ireland, and in the north of Scotland, were so cruelly harassed by their unfeeling landlords, who raised the rent of their land upon them without considering whether they could pay it, that they emigrated in great numbers to America; and of these, it is said, was principally composed that army, which first began the war in that part of the world, conducted it with such spirit and perseverance, and did not conclude it till they had rendered themselves and their new-adopted country independent of their old masters. Oppressed subjects, when driven to extremity, become the most dangerous and inveterate foes: they are actuated by a spirit of revenge against their former tyrants, which cannot be supposed to influence the natives of a foreign country.



This year captain Phipps in the *Sea-horse*, and captain Lutwich in the *Carcase*, were sent out by government, in order to examine whether there was a possibility of discovering either a north-east or a north-west passage to the East-Indies; but after sailing to the latitude of 81 degrees, 39 minutes, they were prevented by the mountains or rather the islands of ice they met with, from proceeding any farther, and they therefore returned home without being able to accomplish their purpose.

This reign indeed seems, for some years past, to have been particularly distinguished by the spirit of adventure. Five different voyages have been performed round the world for the similar purposes of making discoveries in the South-sea: the first by commodore Byron; the second, by captain Wallis; the third, by captain Carteret, and the fourth and fifth, by captain Cook; and none of them have entirely failed in the object of their destination; each of the circum-navigators having either found out some new countries, or something new in the manners of those that were already known. Captain Cook engaged in a third voyage, when, to the infinite regret of all lovers of real merit, he was cut off in a scuffle with the inhabitants of one of the new-discovered islands in the South-sea, called O-why-hee.

The great subject of dispute between the mother-country and her American colonies, was the right of taxation. The parliament of Great-Britain insisted upon its right of taxing them by its own proper authority. The colonies denied this right, and said that they could not be legally taxed without their own consent; and rather than submit to any taxes



otherwise imposed, they seemed willing to encounter every danger, and to risk every extremity. In order, however, to try their temper, and see whether they would put their threats in practice, some tea was sent out to America, loaded with a certain duty. This tea was not only not suffered to be landed, but was sent back to England with the utmost contempt and indignation. In the harbour of Boston it met with a still worse reception. It was taken out of the ships by the populace, and thrown into the sea. To punish the New-Englanders for this act of violence, two bills were now

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passed; one for shutting up the port of Boston; and the other for taking the executive power out of the hands of the people, and vesting it in the crown. Though the minister had hitherto carried every thing in parliament with a high hand, yet as that assembly was now drawing towards an end, he began to be apprehensive that it would not be easy to procure another house of commons equally obsequious, if the people were allowed to be prepared for the elections in the usual manner. He therefore resolved to steal a march upon his antagonists, and to take the people by surprise. The parliament accordingly was suddenly dissolved at the end of the sixth session, and a new one was chosen equally courtly and complaisant with the former.

The acts of severity, we have mentioned above, were levelled in appearance only at the town of Boston; yet most of the other colonies soon took the alarm. They thought they saw, in the fate of that devoted town, the punishment that might soon be inflicted on themselves, as they had all been guilty of nearly the same crime, if not in destroying,



at least in refusing the tea. They therefore resolved to make one common cause with the people of New England ; and accordingly all the old British colonies ( Nova Scotia and Georgia excepted ), sent delegates or commissioners to a general assembly, which met at Philadelphia, and assuming the name of the Congress, presented a bold and spirited remonstrance to his majesty, soliciting a redress of grievances. Georgia, the year following, acceded to the union, and thus completed the number of the thirteen united provinces, which soon after revolted from the mother-country, and at last rendered themselves sovereign and independent states. The congress not satisfied with their remonstrances to the king, exhorted the New-Englanders to oppose the execution of the Boston Port Bill, and of the other severe acts that had been lately passed against them, and they even promised to assist them in case of necessity. To this, indeed, that people were sufficiently disposed by their own natural temper ; as of all the American colonies, New England was, perhaps, the province which from its independent spirit in religion, had longest cherished the wish, and even entertained the hopes of becoming independent in government.

The fire, therefore, which had been so long smouldering between Great-Britain and her colonies, now broke out into an open flame. General Gage, governor of Massachusetts-bay, hearing that the provincials had collected a quantity of military stores at a place called Concord, sent out a detachment in order to destroy them. This detachment met a company of militia at Lexington, about six miles from Concord, between whom and the king's



forces a few shot were exchanged, by which eight provincials were killed and several wounded. The detachment then went on, without any farther interruption to Concord, where they destroyed the stores; but in their return from thence, they were suddenly attacked by a large body of provincials, who harassed them most terribly until they reached Boston. In this action the king's troops lost, in killed, wounded, and prisoners, two hundred and seventy-three men, of which sixty-five were killed. The loss of the provincials amounted to about forty killed, and twenty wounded.

The news of this engagement was no sooner carried into the different parts of the country, than the whole province was at once in arms, and Boston was, in a few days, invested by a body of militia, amounting, it is said, to twenty thousand men. The congress, too upon hearing of the affair of Lexington and the blockade of Boston, heartily approved of all the steps which the New-Englanders had taken; and they passed a resolution declaring, that the compact between the crown and the people of Massachusetts-bay was dissolved. They strictly prohibited the people from supplying the army, the navy, or the transport ships, with any kind of provisions. The more effectually to mark their contempt for the British government, they erected a post-office, at the head of which they placed Dr. Franklin, who had been disgracefully moved from the post in England; and upon general Gage's publishing a proclamation, offering a pardon to all such as should lay down their arms and return to their duty, but excepting from it Messrs. Hancock and Adams, they imme-



diately chose Mr. Hancock president of the congress.

As matters had now been carried too far to admit of any immediate reconciliation, it was generally imagined, that each party would watch an opportunity of striking some blow that might give it a decisive advantage over the other. Nor was it long before it appeared that this apprehension was but too well founded. There is an eminence, called Bunker's-hill, upon a narrow neck of land or isthmus, in the neighbourhood of Boston. Upon this hill the provincials threw up, in one of the short nights of June, a strong redoubt, considerable intrenchments, and a breast-work, almost cannon-proof. In order to dislodge them from this post which might have given great annoyance, as well to the town as to the shipping in the harbour, a detachment of somewhat more than two thousand men was sent out under the command of the generals Howe and Pigot. The attack was begun by a heavy cannonade, not only from the assailants, but from the ships and floating batteries, and from the top of Cop's-hill, in Boston. This severe and incessant fire the provincials are said to have borne with a firmness and resolution that would have done honour even to the most veteran troops. They did not return a shot, until the king's forces had advanced almost to the works, when they began, and kept up for some time such a dreadful and continued fire upon them, as threw our troops into confusion, and killed many of our bravest men and officers. The troops, however, were instantly rallied, and returning to the charge with fixed bayonets, and

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irresistible fury, they forced the works in every quarter, and compelled the provincials to abandon the post, and withdraw to the continent. This advantage, however, was not gained but at a very great expence. Almost one half of the detachment was either killed or wounded, the numbers of which together amounted to one thousand and fifty-four.

The number of officers that fell in this action, compared to that of the private men, was greatly beyond the usual proportion; and this is said to have been owing to the following circumstance:—The Americans had trained, and employed on this occasion, a certain set of soldiers, called marksmen or riflemen, who excelled all others in taking a sure and steady aim. They had likewise furnished them with a new kind of muskets, called rifle-barrelled guns, which not only carried the ball to a greater distance, but sent it in a more straight and direct line than the common firelocks. Thus our officers were marked out, and dispatched by these riflemen with almost as fatal a certainty, as a bird is shot by a fowler when perched upon a tree.

To understand their motive for this conduct it may be proper to observe, that during the whole course of the war the Americans expressed a particular animosity to the officers of the British army beyond what they shewed to the common men, and probably from an opinion, that the war was disapproved of by the great body of the English nation, and was chiefly approved and supported by the nobility and gentry, of which two classes of people the officers of the army are in general composed. They probably, too, had another end



in view ; and that was to entice the common men to desert from the army , and if not immediately to join the American forces , at least to become settlers in the country , and thereby add to its strength and population ; nor could any thing withstand the strong temptations that were thrown in their way for this purpose , but their fidelity to their king , and their attachment to their native soil.

The spirit displayed by the New-Englanders on this occasion , no doubt , encouraged the congress to proceed with greater alacrity in their military preparations. They had , some time before , given orders for raising and paying an army , and they now published a declaration of the motives that compelled them to take up arms , and their determined resolution not to lay them down , till all their grievances were redressed , that is , till the obnoxious acts of parliament were repealed. They likewise appointed Mr. Washington , one of the delegates for Virginia , to be commander in chief of all the American forces.

But to shew , at the same time , that they had no intention of separating themselves from the mother-country , they presented an address to the inhabitants of Great-Britain , another to the people of Ireland , and a petition to the king , in which they disclaim all thoughts of independence , and declare , that they wish for nothing more ardently than a reconciliation with the parent-state , upon what they call just and reasonable terms. And , in the opinion of many people , such terms might have been granted them at this time , as would at once have gratified their ambition , and would neither have hurt the ho-



nour nor the interest of England. For this purpose several plans were proposed by the minority ; but they were all rejected.

Our ministers , indeed , seem now to have been possessed with the romantic notion of conquering America by force of arms , which , perhaps , was at no time practicable ; or had it been , the keeping it in subjection would have cost us more than all the advantage we could ever have derived from it. Perhaps , indeed , no country is worth retaining that cannot be preserved otherwise than by a military force. So strong , however , was the delusion under which the ministry then laboured , that they were incapable of having their eyes opened even by the very interesting intelligence they received from Mr. Penn , one of the most wealthy and best informed gentlemen in America. He was a descendant of the great Penn who had founded the colony of Pensylvania ; he was himself one of the chief proprietors of that province ; and he had brought over the last petition to the king from the American congress. He was now examined in the house of lords , and the sum of his evidence tended to prove , that the colonies had not yet formed any design of erecting themselves into independent states ; that , on the contrary , they were extremely desirous of compromising all differences with the mother-country upon equitable terms ; but that , if their present application for this purpose ( meaning the petition ) was rejected , there was great reason to fear that they would enter into alliances with foreign powers : and if once such alliances were made , it would be no easy matter to dissolve them. No regard , however , was paid to his informa-



tion ; and as to the petition itself , he was told by the ministry , that no answer would be returned to it.

It is easy to imagine what an impression such a haughty and contemptuous treatment must make upon the minds of the Americans , elated , as they were , with the honour they had acquired by their gallant behaviour in the battle of Bunker's-hill , and now , perhaps , for the first time , beginning to feel their strength as a people. The fact is , that during the whole of this unhappy quarrel , our ministers seem to have entertained too mean an opinion of the spirit , as well as of the resources of the Americans. This , it is thought , was the critical moment for putting an end to all differences with the colonies , without proceeding to further hostilities ; but this moment being once lost could never be recovered.

The Americans were not satisfied with acting merely on the defensive , or within the limits of the associated provinces. A party of New-England and New-York militia made an incursion into Canada , under the generals Montgomery and Arnold. They reduced the forts of Chamblee and St. John , and even the town of Montreal. They actually attempted to take the city of Quebec by storm ; but Montgomery being killed and Arnold wounded in the assault , they were obliged to desist from the enterprise ; and a large body of troops arriving soon after from England , they were finally compelled to evacuate the province.

The army , however , in Boston , was now reduced to a most miserable condition. General Howe , who had succeeded general Gage in the command of it ,



though an officer of spirit, and of great military skill, and even fruitful in resources and expedients, found himself totally unequal to the difficulties of his situation. He was effectually cut off from all communication with the continent of America, from which he could not expect the least supply of provisions; the store-ships from England not only arriving slowly, but several of them were even intercepted by the enemy. In a word, the army, as well as the inhabitants of Boston, were in the most imminent danger of perishing by hunger. To add to their distress, the Americans had erected some strong batteries upon the adjacent hills, from whence in the spring they began to play upon the

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town with incredible fury; and now assailed at once by the horrors of war and of famine, neither of which it was in their power to repel, they found it indispensably necessary to evacuate the place. The army accordingly, and such of the inhabitants as chose to follow its fortunes, being put on board some transports, they set sail from Boston, and after a quick passage, arrived safely at Halifax, in Nova Scotia. General Howe had no sooner quitted the town than general Washington took possession of it, and being assisted by some foreign engineers, he soon fortified it in such a manner as to render it almost impregnable.

About the same time an expedition was undertaken against Charles-Town, the capital of South Carolina, which shewed us to be as little acquainted with creeks and harbours on the coast of America, as we soon after appeared to be with the interior geography of the country. The fleet was commanded



by Sir Peter Parker; the land - forces by general Clinton. The troops were disembarked upon a place called Long Island, separated from another named Sullivan's Island only by a strait, which was said to be no more than eighteen inches deep at low water. Upon this vague report our commanders planned the expedition; and the success was such as might have been expected. The enemy had erected some strong batteries upon Sullivan's Island, in order to obstruct the passage of the ships up to the town. This post the admiral attacked with great gallantry, but when the troops attempted to pass from the one island to the other, in order to second his efforts, they found the strait instead of eighteen inches, to be no less than seven feet deep. The consequence was, that the admiral, after continuing the action for the space of ten hours, and after having lost some of his bravest men and officers, and even a ship of war, which he was obliged to burn to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy, was at last forced to give up the enterprise as altogether impracticable.

The news of this miscarriage, and of the mistake that gave rise to it, were received in England with the most perfect indifference. The fact is, that our ministers, and indeed a great part of the people, seem at this time to have fallen into a state of the most unaccountable listlessness and inattention to the national honour and the national interest. The people at large appeared to have been of opinion, that as no great honour could be derived from success in this war, so no great disgrace could be incurred by a failure in it; and losses and disappointments, which, had we been enga-



ged in hostilities with a foreign enemy, would have fired the nation with resentment, and called down the utmost weight of public vengeance upon the authors of them, were now passed over as common and trivial occurrences.

The Americans now began to think that matters had been carried to too great an extremity between them and the mother-country, ever to admit of any sincere or lasting reconciliation. They likewise reflected, that while they continued to acknowledge themselves subjects of the British empire, they were naturally regarded by the rest of the world as rebels fighting against their lawful sovereign; and that this might prevent foreign states from entering into any public treaty or alliance with them. Moved, therefore, by these considerations, they published, about this time, their famous declaration of independence, by which they disclaimed all allegiance to the crown of Great-Britain, and erected themselves into free and sovereign states.

General Howe did not remain long inactive at Halifax. Setting sail from that place, he arrived off New York; and being there joined by his brother, lord Howe, with a large fleet and considerable reinforcements, he drove the enemy first from Long Island, then from the city of New York; and he compelled them to abandon Kingsbridge, at the extremity of New York Island, where they had thrown up some very strong works. He even pursued them to a place called White Plains, where he had a slight skirmish with them; but not being able to bring them to a general engagement, he returned to New York, where he fixed his head-quarters.



The affairs of the congress were reported at this time to be in a very desperate situation. As their troops had been enlisted only for a certain term, which was now expired, their army is said to have dwindled down from twenty-five thousand to three thousand men. Two strokes, however, which general Washington soon after struck, and which contributed equally to raise the spirits of his own men, and to damp those of the British troops, seem to correspond very ill with this opinion. On the night of Christmas day he silently crossed the Delaware, and attacking a body of Hessians that were quartered at Trenton, he made nine hundred and eighteen of them prisoners, whom he fairly carried off. In a few days after, he crossed the river a second time, and falling upon a body of British troops under the command of Colonel Mawhood, he either killed or captured the greatest part of them. These successes, indeed might be as much owing to his intimate acquaintance with the nature of the country, as to any superiority of force he possessed. But the advantage which this knowledge of the country gave him, seems to be a circumstance that never entered into the head of our ministers or commanders, and to counteract which it does not appear that they ever took the least care, or ever made the slightest provision.

France and Spain had hitherto professed to observe the most exact neutrality with regard to Great-Britain and her American colonies. A step, however, which they now think, was sufficient to render their sincerity suspected. They opened their ports to the American privateers, and suffered them publicly to dispose of the rich prizes they



had taken from the British merchants. They likewise supplied the Americans privately with artillery, and other military stores; and such numbers of French officers and engineers went over to the western world, and joined the American army, as added greatly to the skill, and consequently to the strength of the enemy. At the same time both these powers continued to increase their marine with such unwearied diligence, that it was plainly foreseen, and even foretold by every person of common sense, that they would soon throw off the mask they had hitherto worn, and openly declare in favour of the Americans. But these predictions were disregarded by the ministry, or rather were treated with the most supreme contempt; they affected to laugh at them as the visionary conceits of wrong-headed politicians.

We have already observed, that on his majesty's accession, 800,000 l. a year had been settled upon him for his civil list. But this sum had hitherto been found unequal to the expences of the civil government. Above half a million of money, therefore, was now granted for defraying the arrears of the civil list, and an addition of 100,000 l. a year was made to this branch of the revenue; so that his majesty has at present 900,000 l. a year for supporting the charge of his civil government. What opinion even some of the ministers themselves had of this measure, may be easily learned from the speech which Sir Fletcher Norton, speaker of the house of commons, made to the king, when he presented to him the bill for this purpose. He told him, that his faithful commons had given him this mark of their affection, at a time when their cons-



tituents were labouring under burdens almost too heavy to be borne. — « They have , » continued he , « not only granted to your majesty a large present supply , but also a very great additional revenue ; great beyond example , great beyond your majesty's highest expence. But all this , Sir , they have done in a well - grounded confidence , that you will apply wisely , what they have granted liberally. »

In the month of June , general Howe opened the campaign in the province of New York , and again exerted his utmost endeavours to bring the enemy to a decisive action ; but this , as formerly , was avoided by general Washington with so much ability and success , as soon procured that gentleman the appellation , which he seems , indeed , to have very justly deserved , of the American Fabius. General Howe , finding it impossible either to provoke or entice the enemy to a pitched battle , in the northern colonies , resolved to try his fortune in the more southern provinces. Accordingly , embarking his army on board of about two hundred transports , he set sail for Philadelphia ; but when he arrived at the mouth of the Delaware , which leads directly to that city , he found the channel of the river filled with such a quantity of chevaux de frise , as rendered it absolutely impassable. He therefore landed his troops at Elk Ferry , in Maryland ; and on his march from this last place he met general Washington on the banks of the Brandywine river. Washington , being extremely desirous of protecting Philadelphia , resolved , contrary to his usual maxim , to hasard a battle. The two armies , in

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1777.



consequence, immediately came to an engagement, and after a severe and bloody conflict, which continued through the whole day, the enemy were at last obliged to yield to the superior discipline of the English troops. By this means the king's forces were enabled to continue their march to Philadelphia, of which they took possession, though the greatest part of them were encamped at a village called German Town, about six miles from the city.

General Washington, though worsted in the battle of the Brandywine, was neither so much weakened nor dispirited by that event, as to prevent his undertaking, in a short time after, a very bold enterprise, which was as little expected by his friends as his enemies. He had taken post at a place called Skippach Creek, about sixteen miles from German Town, where he received a considerable reinforcement. From this place, on the third of October, he set out silently by night, and arriving at German Town, about three in the morning, he fell upon the king's forces with such impetuosity, as to throw them into confusion, but these being rallied, and brought to the charge, the enemy, in their turn, were obliged to retreat, though this they did with such good order as to carry off their cannon with them. The loss of the royal army in this action amounted to above five hundred men; that of the enemy was probably more considerable.

General Howe sustained still greater loss in clearing the banks of the river of those forts which the enemy had erected upon them, and which prevented the approach of the ships to the town with the necessary stores and provisions. A strong body of Hes-



sians, which he sent out upon this service, were almost all of them, either killed or wounded, and were obliged to relinquish the enterprise. But as there was an indispensable necessity for destroying these forts, without which it would be impossible to subsist the army in Philadelphia during the winter, some ships of war were warped up the river; which soon silenced the batteries; and preparations being made for storming the forts on the land-side, the enemy at last thought proper to abandon them. The chevaux de frize, however, still continued in the bed of the river, and prevented the passage of any ships of war, or, indeed, of any ships of heavy burden.

The king's forces were not so successful in the northern as they had been in the more southern provinces. General Burgoyne who commanded an army in Canada of about ten thousand men, including some Indians, resolved with this body to make an impression upon the province of New-England. He crossed the lakes George and Champlain without opposition. He even reduced the fort of Ticonderago. But, upon his arrival at Saratoga, he was suddenly surrounded and attacked by a superior body of New-Englanders, under the generals Gates and Arnold, and after fighting them two different times with great bravery, though with great loss, his camp was at last stormed, and he and his men were obliged to submit to a capitulation, importing, that they should lay down their arms, and be conducted to Boston, from whence they should be allowed to embark for Great-Britain, upon condition of their not serving again in America during the present war.



A little before this, an extraordinary revolution happened in the East-Indies. Lord Pigot, governor of Madras, was, merely for executing the orders of the directors, seized and imprisoned by the leading members of the council; and even his life was at first thought to be in danger from the violence of his enemies. His own feelings, however, in a little time, completed what his adversaries had either the prudence or the humanity to forbear. His high spirit could not brook the indignity that had been offered him; he soon after sickened and died; and his death was the more sincerely lamented, as, without making invidious comparisons, it may be safely affirmed, that his lordship was a man of the most amiable character of any that ever made a fortune in the East.

Civil wars are always attended with a spirit of enthusiasm, which frequently carries men to the commission of crimes, the bare thoughts of which, in their cooler moments, would fill them with horror. It was, no doubt, under the influence of this spirit that one James Aitken, commonly known by the name of John the Painter, set fire to the rope-house at Portsmouth, and to a street called Quay-lane, in Bristol. He is even said to have formed a plan for burning all the principal trading towns in the island, together with their docks and shipping. But before he could carry his hellish designs into execution, he was seized, tried, condemned, executed, and hung in chains.

A. D. 1778. What had long been foreseen by almost every sensible and unprejudiced man in the kingdom, and repeatedly foretold by the opposition in parliament, now came to



to pass. The French threw off the mask they had hitherto worn, and openly declared in favour of the Americans, whom they acknowledged as sovereign and independent states.

General Clinton who had succeeded general Howe in the command of the army, now evacuated Philadelphia, and retreated to New-York, in his march to which he was attacked by general Washington; but no great loss was sustained on either side. In this action, indeed, general Lee was accused of not having acted with his usual alacrity in attacking the British troops, and being found guilty, was suspended for a year. It may be worthy of notice, that this gentleman had formerly served in the British army which he had quitted in disgust, and had ever since espoused the cause of the Americans, whose interest he had promoted with equal zeal and activity. He had particularly distinguished himself in the defence of Sullivan's island. Some little time before this he had been taken prisoner, by a flying party of the English army, and was threatened with being tried and punished as a deserter. But the congress declared, that if any violence was offered to his person, they would immediately retaliate upon such British officers as were in their power. And to compensate for his capture, general Prescott, a British officer, was soon after taken prisoner by a small party of the Americans; so that these two gentlemen were very soon exchanged.

Though war had not been formally declared between Great-Britain and France, yet there could be no doubt but that these rival-nations were in a state of actual hostility. Fleets were accordingly



fitted out on both sides. D'Orvilliers commanded the French squadron; admiral Keppel conducted the English. The fleets met on the 27th of July, when a running fight took place, but no decisive action. Admiral Keppel was afterwards accused of not having done his duty by admiral Palliser, the second in command. He was therefore tried, but was honourably acquitted. Palliser, himself, was likewise tried for disobedience of orders, and was partly acquitted, and partly condemned.

In the course of this year died the celebrated earl of Chatham, one of the greatest orators, as well as one of the ablest and most successful ministers that this country ever produced. As some mark of national gratitude for the many eminent services he had performed to his country, the sum of twenty thousand pounds was now granted by parliament for discharging his debts; an annuity of four thousand was settled upon his son and successor, and upon all the heirs of his body that shall inherit the earldom of Chatham; his remains were interred with great funeral pomp in Westminster-abbey: and a monument was ordered to be erected to his memory at the public expence.

This year a bold adventurer of the name of Paul Jones kept all the western coast of the island in alarm. He landed at Whitehaven, where he burned a ship in the harbour, and even attempted to burn the town. He afterwards landed in Scotland, and plundered the house of the earl of Selkirk. He some time after fought a bloody battle with captain Pearson of the *Serapis*, whom he compelled to submit; and so shattered was his own ship in the engagement, that

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1779.



he had no sooner quitted her, in order to take possession of his prize, than she went to the bottom. Captain Farmer, too, of the Quebec, fought a no less desperate battle with a French ship of greatly superior force. He continued the engagement with unremitted fury, till his own ship accidentally taking fire, was blown into the air, together with himself and most of his crew.

The chief scene of action between the English and French fleets was the West Indies, where we reduced St. Lucia. But this advantage was more than counterbalanced by the loss of Dominica, St. Vincent's, and Granada, which the enemy took from us. Nothing of importance happened this year in America except the reduction of Georgia by commodore Parker and colonel Campbell; and an attempt which the French admiral d'Estaing, and the American general Lincoln, made to recover it; but in which they were bravely repulsed by major-general Prevost. As to general Washington, he still kept upon the defensive; nor could Sir Henry Clinton, with all his military skill and address, bring him to a pitched battle.

A fresh attempt was made this year to compromise differences with the American colonies; and for this purpose three commissioners were sent out to that part of the world, viz. the earl of Carlisle, M. Eden, and governor Johnstone; but it was plain to every man of common-sense, that after the sword had been used so long, it was in vain to think of settling the dispute with a few strokes of the pen. This negotiation, however, we chiefly mention for the sake of a noble and high-spirited answer that was given by Mr. Reed, an American gene-



ral, to one of the commissioners, who had offered him the sum of ten thousand pounds, and any office in his majesty's gift in the colonies, provided he would use his influence in bringing about an accommodation. This offer Mr. Reed considered as an attempt to bribe him; and he therefore replied — « I am not worth purchasing; but such as I am, the king of Great-Britain is not rich enough to do it. »

The king of Spain now followed the example of the French monarch in acknowledging the independence of the American colonies; and the fleets of these two great powers being joined together, rendered them more than a match for that of Great-Britain. This summer the militia was drawn out and encamped in different parts of the kingdom.

A. D.           The civil transactions of next year  
1780.           consisted chiefly in some attempts that  
                  were made in parliament for reducing  
the public expences. By a plan of Mr. Burke's, the board of trade, and some other useless and superfluous offices, were abolished. And by a bill introduced by the minister himself, commissioners were appointed to inquire into the public accounts; and the discoveries they made in the course of their examination threw great light upon the collection, as well as the expenditure of several branches of the revenue.

This year a man started up from the depth of obscurity, in which he had for some time been buried by debts and difficulties, we do not say to retrieve the honour of the British flag, for that had never been tarnished; but certainly to carry it to a higher pitch than it had lately attained.



This was admiral Rodney, who being entrusted with the command of a squadron, set sail for Gibraltar, and in his way thither, first took a rich convoy of Spanish merchantmen; afterwards defeated a fleet of Spanish men of war, taking the admiral Don Langara's ship, and three other ships of the line; a few months after he fought a most obstinate battle with a superior French fleet under the count de Guichen in the West Indies; and, to mention all his gallant actions at once, in 1782 he obtained a most glorious victory, in the neighbourhood of Jamaica, over another French fleet, commanded by the count de Grasse, taking the admiral's own ship, the *Ville de Paris*, of 110 guns; and several others. For these heroic achievements he was raised to the peerage, which he justly deserved.

The principal events that happened in America this year were the reduction of Charles-Town, South-Carolina, by Sir Henry Clinton and admiral Arbuthnot; the defeat of general Gates by lord Cornwallis; the execution of major André, adjutant-general to the British forces, who was taken in disguise within the American lines, and condemned as a spy; and the desertion of general Arnold from the American cause, and his joining the British army.

Our more immediate domestic occurrences were of a most shocking and disgraceful nature. In consequence of some indulgencies now granted by the parliament to Roman Catholics, a riotous and licentious mob assembled in St George's-fields, in order to petition the two houses against these marks of lenity; soon after which they proceeded to com-



mit the most terrible devastations. They destroyed all the Romish chapels in and about the town ; they burned the prisons of Newgate , the Fleet , and King's Bench , together with the houses of many private persons : and they were even going to make an attack upon the Bank , when they were happily opposed by a body of citizens , who had learned the military discipline , and called themselves the London Association , as well as by the regular troops who were now called in ; and these two together soon suppressed the riot , though not till they had killed or mortally wounded , about two hundred and twenty of the ringleaders. Lord George Gordon was afterwards tried for having collected this assembly , but as it appeared that he was actuated merely by religious principles , and had never encouraged the mob to commit nor even expected they would commit any outrage , he was acquitted.

A. D.  
1781.

The events of 1781 were neither numerous nor important ; yet some things happened in most quarters of the globe that are worthy of notice. As if we had not had a sufficient number of enemies upon our hands already , we now thought proper to increase the list by engaging in a war , perhaps rather rashly , and even unnecessarily , with the Dutch. In the West Indies we took from them the Island of St. Eustatius ; but it was soon after retaken by the French. A desperate engagement happened off the Doggerbank between a small squadron of English ships under admiral Hyde Parker , and a like squadron of Dutch ships under admiral Zoutman. The action was maintained for three hours and forty minutes



with equal gallantry on both sides, and at last ended in a drawn battle.

In America some petty skirmishes happened by land, and some trifling encounters by sea, in some of which we failed, and in others succeeded. But at last earl Cornwallis, our second in command, got himself into a situation in Virginia from which no military skill or generalship could possibly deliver him; and he was therefore obliged to surrender himself and his whole army prisoners of war to the united armies of America and France, under the command of general Washington. This was the second British army that had been captured in America, and might have served to convince our ministers, if any thing could have convinced them, of the extreme difficulty, if not the utter impossibility of carrying on a successful war in so remote and extensive a continent. In the East Indies we had somewhat better fortune. Hyder Ally, indeed, and the Mahrattas had joined their arms against us, defeated colonel Baillie, and obliged Sir Hector Munro to retreat; but Sir Eyre Coote arriving and taking upon him the command of the army, soon obtained a complete victory over the enemy.

Though the capture of lord Cornwallis did not put an actual, yet it may be said to have put a virtual end to the War

A. D.  
1782.

in America. All hopes of conquering it were from that moment abandoned as vain and chimerical; and every military operation that was afterwards carried on, was not so much with a view of subjugating the colonies, as to maintain the honour of the British arms. The object of the war, therefore, being now fairly given up as altogether unattainable



ble, the mind of men in general were set upon a peace; but as peace could not be decently concluded by that ministry which had so long and so obstinately carried on the war, there was an absolute necessity for a new ministry. The old ministry, therefore, was dismissed, and a new one appointed in its room. The marquis of Rockingham was made first lord of the treasury; lord John Cavendish, chancellor of the exchequer; Mr. Fox and lord Shelburne, secretaries of state; the duke of Richmond, master-general of the ordnance; and general Conway, commander in chief of the army. In a word there was hardly a single member of the late ministry who retained his place in the present, except the chancellor, lord Thurlow.

We had almost forgot to mention, that ever since the commencement of hostilities with Spain, the fortress of Gibraltar had been closely invested by the troops of that nation; but all their attempts were rendered ineffectual by the admirable skill and gallantry of the governor, general Elliot. He commonly suffered the enemy to finish their works before he attacked them; and then, in the space of a few hours he either set them on fire, or levelled them with the ground. In their last attempt upon the place, they attacked it with a number of gun-boats, that are said to have been bombproof, but these he likewise contrived to set on fire by firing red-hot balls into them. The Spaniards, however, though they failed in this attempt, succeeded in two others. They took from us the Island of Minorca, and the province of West Florida.

The ministry were proceeding diligently with the work of peace, negotiations for which were opened



at Paris, when they suddenly, and unhappily for the nation, fell in pieces by the death of their leader, the marquis of Rockingham. He was succeeded by the earl of Shelburne, and this gave so much disgust to some of the principal members of administration, that Mr. Fox, lord John Cavendish, Mr. Burke, paymaster of the forces, and several other gentlemen resigned their places. The new ministry, however, (for such it may be called) were as zealous for a peace as the old one, and they accordingly proceeded to settle the terms of it in the best manner they could: but before they could complete the work of a general pacification, they were obliged to give way to the superior parliamentary interest of Mr. Fox and lord North, who formed a coalition, and though formerly so different in their political sentiments, now came into power as friends and coadjutors. Thus Mr. Fox had the satisfaction of finishing the peace which he had begun under the marquis of Rockingham; and lord North had the mortification of being compelled to acknowledge the independence of those colonies which he had long hoped to conquer.

A. D.  
1783.

When the peace was concluded and the ferment which the late changes in administration, and especially the coalition, had occasioned, was beginning to subside; the ministry turned their thoughts to a purpose of great magnitude, and which seemed to demand all the vigour of penetrating genius, and all the support of a nation, not less famed for its humanity, than interested in the preservation of its commerce. This was the regulation of the affairs of the East-India company both at home and abroad. The abuses in the management of East-India trade



and territory were now too flagrant to admit either of concealment or excuse; and with a view to take away the means of corruption, and rectify all the errors of the oriental system, Mr. Fox adventured on a plan more bold than that system contained, and nearly more unpopular than its worst abuses. This plan went to take from the directors and proprietors of the East-India company and stock, the entire administration of their territorial and commercial affairs, their house in Leadenhall-street, their books, papers, and documents; and it vested the whole power, management, and patronage, the rights of peace and war, and their entire revenue, in the hands of seven commissioners, who, though for the present appointed by the legislature, were hereafter to be appointed by the crown, and were to hold their offices by the same tenure as the judges of England, that is, during their good behaviour, and were consequently not removeable unless by an address from either house of parliament.

Nov. 1783. This plan was combated with unusual success by the adherents of the late administration, and by all persons directly or indirectly interested in the affairs of the East-India company: nor was the voice of the nation less loud in resisting what appeared to be an immense plan of personal aggrandizement, at the expence equally of the crown and of the people. In the house of commons the opposition was headed by Mr. William Pitt. The infraction of the company's charter, the immense and uncontrollable patronage granted to the commissioners, the injury done to the power of the crown, and to the liberties of the people, were the principal arguments enforced both



within and without doors : Mr. Fox's bill, however, was successful in the house of commons.

In the house of lords, it was opposed on the strongest grounds, as an atrocious violation of private property, and as creating a power paramount to each of the three estates of the kingdom : and after debates equally warm with those in the other house, the plan was rejected. A singular circumstance preceded this defeat : lord Temple demanding a private audience of his majesty is said to have convinced him of the danger that would ensue to the dignity of his crown and the liberty of the people from this bill. What effect his majesty's conviction of this truth, when made public, may have produced on the sentiments of some noble lords, we pretend not to investigate. There was, however, nothing improper or illegal in a peer of the realm giving advice to his sovereign in a matter which involved, or to him seemed to involve, the dearest interests of the nation ; and the event proved, that his advice was consonant to the feelings of the majority of the nation.

The ministry being now defeated in their most favourite scheme, a struggle took place between them and the opposition which continued with unequal success for some time. A new administration was appointed, at the head of which Mr. Pitt was placed as first lord of the Treasury and chancellor of the Exchequer. He could not, however, succeed in his measures in the house of commons : the majority were still the adherents of the coalition ministry, and the business of the nation stood still. A party of moderate men endeavoured to unite the jarring interests of the more violent, by some kind of compromise, and meetings for this purpose were



held at the St. Alban's Tavern. These not proving successful, for neither party would give way, and it becoming absolutely necessary that an effectual administration should be formed, his majesty was

Mar. 25, induced to dissolve the present parlia-  
1784. ment, conceiving it to be a duty he owed to the constitution, and to the country, to recur as speedily as possible to the sense of the people by the mode of a general election.

Whether the manner in which the present administration came into power was regular or not; whether the sentiments of the people were right, and the disgrace thrown on the coalition party merited, are questions to be discussed in histories of greater magnitude. Suffice it to say here, that the appeal to the people, by placing in their hands the power of election, was answered by a total defeat of the friends of the coalition. Above thirty of its principal supporters, although men of great fortunes and personal weight; and many of excellent characters, were rejected by their late constituents. When the parliament met, the ministry were supported by a resistless majority, and the nation, if we may judge from the multitude of addresses, were disposed to place the utmost confidence in their measures.

As the affairs of India were still urgent, Mr. Pitt introduced three bills for regulating them, the tendency of which was supposed to be more favourable to the crown and people, and equally successful in correcting the abuses of the company's servants. These bills excited all the opposition which the friends of the late administration could gather, and did not pass into a law, without being canvassed in every stage with uncommon care. By them a board  
of



of controul was appointed for the management of the company's affairs, which has continued ever since. The rights of the court of directors and of the proprietors remained. Soon after the passing of these acts, Mr. Burke announced an intention of prosecuting an enquiry into the conduct of Mr. Hastings, the governor-general of Bengal.

The remainder of the session was taken up in the regulation of the finances. A bill was passed for the prevention of smuggling, by which the revenue was annually defrauded of two millions. The good effects of this bill, although denied at that time, have been since experienced. As part of the same system for the prevention of smuggling, the commutation-act was passed; the high duties on tea were reduced, and a tax laid on by way of commutation on window-lights. No proceeding, however, of this administration, has been more opposed in parliament, and without doors it could not be popular. The third branch of Mr. Pitt's plan to prevent smuggling, was a law for regulating the duties upon British spirits, and discontinuing, for a limited time, certain imposts upon spirits imported from the West-Indies.

Mr. Pitt next found it necessary to borrow the sum of 600,000 l. by way of loan. Of navy bills and ordnance debentures, he funded only the sum of 6,600,000 l. Taxes were proposed on sundry articles, hats, ribbons, horses not employed in necessary labour, etc. The taxes were resisted with considerable force of argument, but the terms of the loan and the funding-system were applauded even by some of the leaders of the opposition. The only other event worthy of notice marks the liberality and lenity of modern times. A bill was brought in by Mr.



Dundas, and carried successfully through both houses, to restore the estates confiscated to the crown in Scotland upon the termination of the rebellion in 1745.

The following year affords us a few occurrences of great celebrity; years of profound peace are barren to the historian. M. Pitt introduced a plan of parliamentary reformation, according to which one

A. D. 1785.      hundred members were to be added to the popular interest, and the right of election was to be extended to one hundred thousand persons who were previously disqualified. But the majority of the house were against this plan, and the bill was not permitted to be formally brought in. An extensive plan of fortifications, projected by the duke of Richmond, master of the ordnance, excited considerable attention, which was followed by very little conviction of its necessity. As it appeared, however, to deserve a serious enquiry from the nature of the expences already incurred in the incipient state of it, the final discussion was adjourned for the present. But time did nothing to convince the public of its expediency; and on its being introduced in the following sessions, the whole plan was rejected. A circumstance almost without a precedent, attended its rejection. The numbers, when the division was called for, were equal, and the speaker's casting vote being now necessary, he gave it against the noble duke's system.

The American loyalists, or those natives or inhabitants of America, who had suffered in their estates by their adherence to Great-Britain during the late war, had strong claims on the justice and generosity of government. Their case had been often discussed



since the peace, and commissioners were appointed to inquire into it. M. Pitt now informed the house, that the whole of the claims allowed by the commissioners amounted to the sum of 471,000 l.; he proposed that the sum of 150,000 l. should be granted to the claimants for present relief, and a future and permanent provision be made by a lottery. But the principal business of this year respected what were called the Irish propositions, which tended to establish a new and more intimate system of commercial intercourse between Great-Britain and Ireland. Petitions from several manufacturing towns were presented against this system, which indeed seemed equally unpopular in both kingdoms. Long and tedious debates were carried on in both parliaments. In the English, the propositions had been under consideration for nearly three months, when they were taken up to the house of lords, and supported and attacked on the same ground as in the house of commons. When returned to the latter, Mr. Pitt moved an address to his majesty, acquainting him with what they had done, and the business was then left to the Irish parliament, where after a full discussion, the whole system was finally rejected.

In the ensuing spring, Mr. Pitt laid before the public a plan of financial regulation, which had long employed his thoughts, and which has since engaged the attention of statesmen and politicians in no common degree. The outline of the plan was to establish a sinking-fund for the gradual liquidation of the national debt. One million was the sum annually to be placed in the hands of commissioners, in quarterly payments

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1786.



of 250,000 l. each. The million, by compound interest, would amount to a very great sum in a short period; in twenty-eight years, for instance, it would produce an increase, of four millions *per annum*. This fund was not to be alienated to any other purpose. The debates on the subject were long, and conducted with great ability by both parties; but at length it was adopted.

A remarkable affair happened this Aug. 2. year, which had like to have been attended with very serious consequences. As his majesty was alighting from his carriage at the gate of St. Jame's palace, a woman of the name of Nicholson who was waiting there, under pretence of presenting a petition, struck at his majesty with a knife, but providentially he received no injury. The woman was immediately taken into custody, and appearing on several examinations, to be insane, was sent to Bethlem hospital. The affair, however, excited the most general expression of loyal principles and attachment to his majesty. The city of London addressed the throne in terms of congratulation, and the example was followed by all the corporations and public bodies of the kingdom.

The event, however, of this year which will be longest held in remembrance, is the commencement of the prosecution against Mr. Hastings, which terminated in an impeachment of that gentleman. The instigator and chief conductor of this prosecution was Mr. Edmund Burke. The talents, therefore, and celebrity both of the accuser and the accused, conspired to give no small weight and dignity to a mode of trial at all times solemn and interesting. After much altercation respecting the production of cer-



tain papers, necessary for Mr. Burke's purpose, this gentleman exhibited twenty-one charges against Mr. Hastings, and an additional one was presented by Mr. Francis in the following month. April.

The outline of these charges was this : — The first of them related to the war that had been carried on against the Rohillas. The second, to the provinces of Cora, and Allahabad, which had been conferred on the Mogul by lord Clive, and the revenues of which had been detained, when that prince withdrew to his capital of Delhi and put himself under the protection of the Mahrattas. The third treated of the extraordinary aid which had been demanded on account of the war from the rajah of Benares, the fine which had been imposed upon him for refractoriness, and his consequent expulsion from his dominions. The fourth related to the confinement of the princesses of Oude, the imprisoning and fettering their servants with a view to extort money, the distresses which were experienced by their families, and their compulsory resignation of their jaghires or appanages. The fifth regarded the treatment of the rajah of Farruchabad. The sixth, of the rajah of Sahloue. The seventh, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth, treated of certain extravagant contracts into which Mr. Hastings had entered on the part of the company; and the enormous salaries which he had bestowed upon Sir Eyre Coot, and upon certain boards of his own institution. The eighth treated of money privately received, and of illegal presents. The ninth regarded the authority which Mr. Hastings had given to certain persons in England, to resign the government in his name,



and the refusal he had given in India to submit to the consequent appointment of his successor. The thirteenth respected certain embassies to the nabob of Arcot, and the suba of the Decan. The fourteenth related to the desertion of the rajah of Gohud, in the conclusion of the Mahratta peace. The fifteenth, to the uneconomical and arbitrary management of the revenues of Bengal. The sixteenth charged Mr. Hastings with the declension and ruin of the province of Oude. The seventeenth regarded a certain native called Mahomet Reza Khan, who had for a long time been entrusted with the internal management of Bengal, and was displaced by Mr. Hastings. The eighteenth accused Mr. Hastings of having, at a recent period, delivered up the Mogul into the hands of the Mahrattas. The nineteenth charged him with libelling the court of directors. The twentieth related to the guilt of occasioning the Mahratta war, and the ill-faith that had attended the conclusion of the Mahratta peace. The twenty-first regarded suppression of correspondence; and the twenty-second related to the treatment of Fizula Khan.

After surmounting many difficulties that respected the mode of proceeding, on the first day of June, Mr. Burke introduced his motion for impeaching Mr. Hastings on the first charge, which, after a long debate, was negatived. The charge of expelling the rajah of Benares was afterwards debated and allowed, and the greater part of the other charges being also allowed, it was noted that Mr. Hastings be impeached, and Mr. Burke was directed, in the name of the house of commons, and of all the commons of England, to go to the bar of the house



of lords, and impeach Mr. Hastings of high crimes and misdemeanors. The message was immediately delivered, and the articles which had been prepared were sent to the house of lords. On the 21st. of the same month Mr. Burke brought up another article of impeachment and informed the lord chancellor, that Mr. Hastings was then in custody of the serjeant at arms, ready to be delivered at the bar of that house. Mr. Hastings was then ordered into the custody of the usher of the black rod, brought into the house, and the articles were read. The lord chancellor having asked him what he had to say in his defence, Mr. Hastings answered, that he relied on the justice of that house, and requested a copy of the charges, with a reasonable time to make his defence, likewise to be allowed counsel, and admitted to bail; he was accordingly bailed, himself in twenty thousand pounds, and Messrs. Sumner and Sullivan, his sureties, in ten thousand pounds each; and the second day of the next session of parliament was appointed for the delivery of his defence at the bar of the house of lords.

Leaving the trial, therefore, for the present, we advert to other intermediate events. In the beginning of the sessions of parliament, a treaty of commerce was laid before the house between Great - Britain and France, which had been signed at Versailles, and promised to be of infinite importance to this country, and greatly to lessen the violence of national prejudices. The substance of this treaty was the mutual exchange of every species of commodity, except warlike stores. It was opposed in both houses, but without much strength of argument, and no public

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bodies of commercial men seemed averse to it. In France it was very unpopular, a proof that its advantages were not so strictly reciprocal as had been stated. In consequence of this treaty, the duties upon Portugal, Spanish, and Madeira wines were reduced to a proportion one-third lower than the new duties upon French wines.

A very considerable relief was given to the merchant, as well as a considerable addition made to the revenue this year by the consolidation of the fractional custom-house duties. It met with almost universal approbation. The annual income and expenditure were represented in a very favourable light, although the opposition, by various statements, endeavoured to prove the fallacy of the minister's accounts. Another material alteration in the collection of the revenue was introduced about this time, namely, the farming of the post-horse tax, which was carried through parliament amidst considerable opposition. The protestant dissenters applied this session for a repeal of the test and corporation acts, but their application was rejected, although by a majority of only seventy-eight, a circumstance which seemed to promise complete success on a future attempt.

During the preceding year, his royal highness the Prince of Wales, finding his income not sufficient to support that style of splendid expence into which he had fallen, and having been disappointed in obtaining an increase of income which, it was expected, might have been offered, (although by him not solicited) took the resolution to lay down his state establishment, and retire, in a certain degree, from public life. No resolution could be



more honourable or better received. When it became the subject of public conversation, it was the subject of public regret, that a prince of such promising talents and munificence should be compelled, by pecuniary necessity to forego that splendour which an Englishman always wishes to see enjoyed by the branches of the royal family. Accordingly, after he had remained nine months in the situation of a private gentleman, which time he had employed in liquidating part of his debts, a parliamentary notice of this affair was threatened by some gentlemen in opposition. M. Newnham, one of the representatives of the city of London, asked Mr. Pitt whether it was his design to bring forward any proposition to rescue the prince from his present embarrassed situation; on Mr. Pitt's answering that he had no command to that purpose from the king, Mr. Newnham gave notice of formal motion upon the subject. In a conversation which afterwards took place in the house, previous to the day appointed for this motion, a member suggested some alarming doubts respecting a matrimonial connection supposed to be formed between the young personage in question and a lady of the Roman Catholic persuasion; but assurance was given by the prince's most intimate friends, that this was entirely without foundation. After much altercation in the house, a conference took place out of doors, and a negociation was opened which prevented the necessity of Mr. Newnham's motion. In consequence of a message from his majesty, the sum of 10,000*l.* per annum was added to the prince's income; 20,000*l.* were granted to carry on the works at Carlton-house; and 161,000*l.*

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for the discharge of his debts. His majesty's message stated, « that the prince had given the fullest assurance of his determination to confine his future expences within his income, and had settled a plan, and had fixed an order in those expences, which, it was trusted, would effectually secure the due success of his exertions. »

This year is rendered remarkable by a temporary revolution in the States-General of Holland, promoted chiefly by a French party, but which at length induced the courts of Prussia and Great-Britain to interfere. The particulars of this revolution not strictly belonging to this history, it will be sufficient to mention, that the Prussian army, under the duke of Brunswick, entered Holland on the thirteenth of September, and after a short but successful progress, restored tranquillity. France had notified its intention to arm in favour of the Dutch, which occasioned an armament to be fitted out by Great-Britain, but which was disbanded by the common consent of the courts of Versailles and St. James's, in the month of October.

The principal transaction of parliament during the

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lords, agreeable to their appointment, and the reply of the house of commons followed it. The thirteenth of February was fixed for the commencement of the trial. On that day, about eleven o'clock, the house of commons, preceded by the managers of the impeachment, came from their house into Westminster-hall, which was fitted up with galleries, etc. suited to the occasion. Mr. Burke led the



procession, and they took their seats on the benches. Half an hour after, the lords moved from their own chamber of parliament: the clerks of parliament first, the masters of chancery following them, next the serjeants, and then the judges; after them a herald, and then the eldest sons of peers, and peers minor; then, after the ushers, the barons, bishops, viscounts, earls, marquises, dukes, archbishops, and the lord chancellor. The procession closed with the royal family, the son of the duke of Gloucester walking first, and the prince of Wales last. In passing to their seats, they took off their hats and bowed to the throne. After the usual formalities, the trial commenced by the clerks of the court reading the charges; and it continued with intervals for three months.

An act was passed towards the close of this session for the better regulation of the transportation of slaves from Africa to the West-Indies. This is chiefly worthy of notice, as being the first step taken in the prosecution of a design becoming the dignity and humanity of the nation, the total abolition of that cruel and nefarious traffic: a traffic which is defensible on no principle that can be honourable to an individual or to society.

Great Britain, at this time, was enjoying unexampled prosperity; while other European nations were the seat of war and dissension, her increasing commerce and internal tranquillity were the theme of every tongue. Grateful for a constitution to which we owe these blessings, the people had agreed to commemorate the centenary anniversary of the revolution of 1688 with unusual demonstrations of joy. It was accordingly celebrated by men of all parties



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in every principal town throughout the kingdom, with cheerful festivity and devout thankfulness.

But while the people were thus exulting in the advantages of their happy situation, an unexpected event plunged the nation into grief, and excited the most serious alarms. This was the indisposition with which his majesty began to be afflicted in the latter part of the month of October, and which in a few weeks rendered it necessary for the parliament to supply the vacancy of the executive power. Their deliberations were attended with more difficulty than at first seemed to arise from the case itself, or any circumstances connected with it. The difference of opinion between the ministry and the opposition turned on the question, whether the prince of Wales should be appointed regent, during the indisposition of his royal father, with the *full* exercise of the executive power? or, whether his power should be so far *restricted* as not to invade any of those prerogatives which can belong only and properly to the king, and cannot be exercised by any person during his life? The ministry were for limiting the power of the regent, and vesting the government of the royal household in the queen, who was to be provided with a council of advice, and when it should appear to the queen, and to the majority of her council, that the king was restored to health, his majesty was to resume his functions, and the regency to cease. These we state as the substance of the plan advanced by the ministry, but every motion or resolution that composed it, underwent the strictest scrutiny, and was opposed with great vehemence by the other party.



In the mean time, although the ministry had an immediate prospect of retiring from public life, power and patronage; and to all human appearance an administration was about to be formed, which would include the principal members of opposition, such was the confidence reposed in Mr. Pitt, that all corporations, and public bodies of men assembled to address their thanks to him for having supported the privileges of the people. The houses of lords and commons gave him a decided majority, and the regency, if it had taken place, must have been crippled in all its parts.

Fortunately, however, for the nation, as a mutilated executive government might have lessened its consequence, about the time the regency-bill was to pass through the last forms in the house of lords, his majesty's recovery was announced, and to the great joy of the nation, so completed, that he was able to resume the function of royalty early in the month of March, on the tenth day of which the lord chancellor opened the regular parliament by a speech. The news of this happy event were quickly spread over the kingdom. Nothing was heard but the language of congratulation. The cities of London and Westminster were illuminated with a splendour that realized the decorations of an eastern romance. The 23d of April was appointed as a day of solemn thanksgiving throughout the kingdom. On that day his majesty accompanied by the whole royal family and the two houses of parliament, went to St. Paul's cathedral to return thanks to God for his recovery. The following night the metropolis, and every town and village in the kingdom, were illuminated with a greater degree of splendour, if



possible, than on the preceding occasion, and which, indeed, surpassed every idea that could be formed by a description. Both rich and poor strove to excel in this testimony of loyalty, which was alluded to by the Laureat in these beautiful lines :

« Meek Poverty her scanty cottage grac'd,  
» And flung her gleam across the lonely waste  
» Th' exulting isle in one wide triumph strove  
» One social sacrifice of reverential love. »

In Ireland, regency bills were attempted to be introduced of a similar nature to those in England, but their fate was very different. That parliament rejected every idea of restriction, and offered to the Prince of Wales the regency in its full power. Six commissioners were appointed to bear this offer to the prince; but there, as well as here, the delay was so great, that they did not arrive in England until a few days before his majesty's recovery. Immediately on this recovery being announced to the public, the corporation of London addressed his majesty, and similar addresses were sent from every part of the kingdom.

The first business that engaged the attention of the public after the meeting of parliament was the repeal of the shop-tax. This tax was laid on by Mr. Pitt a few years before, and though not generally oppressive, yet, from its partial principle, had excited an unusual degree of clamour, and many fruitless attempts were made to obtain a repeal. On a motion from Mr. Fox, the house now complied with the public wish. The majority against the repeal of the test and corporation acts on the former application



Of the dissenters, appearing to be such as promised success to their persevering efforts; a motion for that purpose was again introduced, and the majority against it dwindled down to twenty-two. Here was an additional ground of hope, but how that came to be disappointed will appear hereafter. Considerable progress was made this year in an effort to abolish the slave-trade, which although not completed, yet had gained so great weight with the house, that opposition seemed to die away. All persons concerned in the trade were alarmed, and the table of the house of commons was covered with petitions against it.

The most important alteration in the collection of the revenue which occurred this year, was the extension of the excise laws to the tobacco trade. Great frauds had confessedly been practised for many years in that trade, but the excise being a mode of collection hostile to the spirit of the constitution, and at all times grating to the feelings of Englishmen, no extension of it could be popular. In this affair, therefore, the minister had to contend against a greater weight of opposition, both within and without doors, than he had been accustomed to; notwithstanding which the measure was carried through both houses. It is to be observed, that during the administration of Sir Robert Walpole, a measure of the same kind was resisted with such force as to hasten the downfall of that minister. During this year, on the death of Mr. Cornwall, speaker of the house of commons, Mr. Grenville succeeded to that high office, and on his accepting the office of secretary of state, the choice of the house fell upon Mr. Henry Addington, who had the singular merit or good for-



tune to attract the regard of all parties, by the firmness of his conduct and the impartiality of his decisions.

The year we have now concluded will be for ever distinguished in the annals of history by a revolution which took place in France, which has excited and continues to excite the wonder and the astonishment of the world, and which promises to be productive of events in which every nation of Europe may ultimately be interested. It does not come strictly under our plan to detail the various causes which led the way to this great and important event. The distressed state of the French finances, the growing energy of liberal opinion and increased freedom of speech, the intercourse between the enlightened lovers of liberty in England and France, the imbecility of the court, and the desertion of the military to the side of the people, brought on the grand crisis which precipitated the whole government and ancient constitution, its monarchy and aristocracy, its parliaments, courts of law, and privileges, in one heap of ruins. Happy had it been if wisdom and temperance had dictated a cautious policy to those who now obtained the popular command; but the people, emancipated from the yoke of despotism, could not restrain themselves within due bounds; violence was every where practised; and the first operations of the popular leaders were rather directed to triumph over slavery, than to establish rational freedom.

The French revolution took place in the year 1789, and when the British parliament met in 1790, it accidentally became the subject of conversation, a circumstance less important in itself than from its consequences. Mr. Burke took this opportunity to cen-



sure the leaders of affairs in France with uncommon asperity, and he was answered by his colleagues in opposition, Mr. Fox and Mr. Sheridan. In reply to the latter gentleman, Mr. Burke declared that from that hour, their political connexion was for ever dissolved. The ministry seemed rather inclined to favour Mr. Burke's sentiments, while they kept aloof from the warmth of his expressions; and from this quarrel we are to date that disunion among the members of the opposition party, which has since become more wide, and perhaps to it may be referred many other events of importance which considerably affected the peace of the nation.

We have already given an account of two attempts made within a few years to obtain a repeal of the test and corporation acts. On the last of these occasions the success of the dissenters was such as, in all human probability, to ensure the object of their wishes on a future application. But as the dissenters were known, or at least supposed to be firm friends to the French revolution, and had applauded with a considerable degree of enthusiasm the proceedings that followed it, an alarm was taken by the advocates for the church and constitution. Accordingly when the motion for the repeal of the above acts was introduced again into the house, Mr. Burke took occasion to give such a representation of the principles of the dissenters as seemed to have more than common weight with the members present; and such were the arguments advanced by the ministry against the repeal, in the present state of affairs, and such the prevailing dread of innovation, that the motion was rejected by a majority of nearly three to one. About four hundred members gave their votes on this occasion.



On the same grounds, and from the same dread of innovation, while the dangers of innovation in France were too obvious, a motion for a reformation in the state of parliamentary representation, introduced by Mr. Flood, would have been rejected, perhaps without any division, had not the mover been advised to withdraw it. The substance of Mr. Flood's plan was, that one hundred members should be added to the present house of commons, to be elected by a new and numerous body of electors, the resident householders in every county. He also proposed that the sheriff of each county should be required, by himself and his deputies, to take the poll of the resident householders in each parish on the same day.

Very little domestic business of more importance than has been detailed, engaged the attention of parliament during the remainder of the present sessions, but a dispute took place between our court and that of Spain, which threatened to terminate in mutual hostilities. Some British merchants had, in the year 1786, formed the project of opening a trade to Port Nootka, or king George's Sound, for the purpose of supplying the Chinese markets with furs. In the year 1788, they had secured to themselves an apparently permanent settlement; but the Spaniards resented the intrusion of the English into that part of the world; and in May 1789, a Spanish frigate captured two English vessels, and at the same time took possession of the settlement which the English had formed. When this affair was laid before the house of commons, the ministry were authorized to take such steps as might obtain redress from the Spanish court; an armament was prepared which cost



nearly three millions sterling. Whether from its formidable appearance, or that Spain was seriously inclined to pacific measures, is uncertain, but the consequence was, that the court of Madrid at length consented that the satisfaction and indemnification required by the English ambassador, should be granted as a preliminary. In the convention that followed, the restoration of the buildings and vessels, and the reparation of the losses sustained by the British subjects, were secured; and both nations were to partake of the rights of navigation and fishery under certain stipulated conditions. The conclusion of this affair is here, for the sake of connection, antedated, as it did not take place before the assembling of the next parliament. In the month of June the parliament was dissolved.

The new parliament assembled on the 25th of November 1790. His majesty, in his opening speech, expressed his satisfaction that the differences with Spain had been brought to an amicable conclusion, and that though the war between Russia and the Porte still continued, Austria had made peace with the latter, and Russia had concluded a peace with Sweden. The terms of the convention with Spain were ratified and approved in both houses of parliament by great majorities. In order to defray the expence of this armament, without any increase of the national debt, Mr. Pitt proposed certain temporary taxes, which would discharge the incumbrance in four years, and a loan of five hundred thousand pounds from the bank, without interest, so long as a floating balance to that amount should remain in the hands of the cashier. The reason of these apparently liberal terms was this, Mr. Pitt originally in-



tended to take five hundred thousand pounds from the unclaimed dividends lying in the Bank of England, the amount of which was estimated at six hundred and sixty thousand pounds. But this measure being opposed as having a tendency to diminish the confidence of the public in the guardians of their property, he consented to accept the loan upon the terms above - mentioned. The measure, however, had one very singular effect. The directors of the bank found themselves called upon to publish a list of the unclaimed dividends, with the names of the claimants, by which means vast numbers recovered property of which they knew nothing, but which had been carelessly left, or forgot by their ancestors in the adjustment of accounts with the bank.

Soon after the meeting of parliament, motions were made by Mr. Burke, the leader of the impeachment of Mr. Hastings, for the renewal of that memorable trial, when it was found that a question, apparently of easy solution, if we consider the true ends and purposes of justice, was notwithstanding liable to very many doubts. All the gentlemen in parliament who were of the profession of the law, whether on the ministerial or opposition-side, contended that in consequence of the dissolution of parliament, the impeachment had abated. This occasioned very long and warm debates; precedents were sought, and authorities placed against authorities; but the final issue determined in favour of the impeachment, in which, however, very little progress was made during the present session, which was nearly concluded before the grand question was discussed.



Early in the year 1791, a bill was passed with little opposition, to relieve the English Roman catholics from certain legal penalties existing against them, on condition of their subscribing a declaration or protest against the authority of the pope, couched in terms which could not be well objected to by the more liberal members of that religion, but which occasioned some discontent, as it seemed to establish a distinction between those who did and those who did not protest. In April, Mr. Wilberforce, introduced a motion which had long been expected, for the abolition of the slave-trade; but it was negatived by a majority of seventy-five voices. A bill, however, passed for chartering a company for the purpose of cultivating West-Indian and other tropical products at Sierra Leone, on the coast of Africa, by the use of free negroes. This company, in proportion to its' success, which, notwithstanding many unavoidable obstacles, has been considerable, must hereafter very materially affect the interests of the West-India colonies.

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One of the most important acts of this session was the establishment of a regular form of government in Canada. This province was now ordered to be divided into two distinct governments, by the appellations of upper and lower Canada. Councils nominated by the sovereign, and houses of assembly chosen by the people, were established in each. The Habeas-Corpus act was asserted as a fundamental law of their constitution, and parliament were restrained from imposing any taxes, but such as might be necessary for the regulation of trade and commerce, and the produce of such taxes was to be at



the disposal of the respective provincial legislatures. This arrangement met with general approbation. It was in some points, however, opposed by Mr. Fox, who proposed annual, or triennial elections, instead of septennial, and objected to the power reserved by the crown of annexing to certain honorary and titular distinctions an hereditary right of sitting in council. These objections served to introduce some allusions to the destruction of hereditary titles and honours in France, which called up Mr. Burke, who, after a sharp altercation with Mr. Fox, with whom he had acted nearly the whole of his parliamentary career, took a solemn leave of that gentleman, as he had formerly taken of Mr. Sheridan. Mr. Fox, who burst into tears at this unexpected termination of their friendship, offered concessions, which the other rejected with contempt, and their union was dissolved for ever.

Previous to the close of this session, the country was again alarmed with the prospect of a war with Russia. When Leopold, king of Hungary, ascended the throne, he concluded a peace with the Ottoman Porte, in August 1790. This negotiation was brought about principally by the agency of the British government, and an intimation was now made from the same quarter to the empress of Russia, that it was the pleasure of the British court that peace should be restored between the Ottoman and Russian empires. She peremptorily rejected this interference, and a message was sent to the house of commons from his majesty, importing, that the endeavours which he had used in conjunction with his allies to effect a pacification, not having proved successful, his majesty judged it requisite, in order



to add weight to his representations , to make some further augmentation of his naval force. But when this message came to be taken into consideration , the opposition to a Russian war was so vigorously urged within doors , and was so generally popular without , that , although Mr. Pitt's motion in consequence of the message was carried , the votes against it were so numerous as to induce him to give up the object in view ; and without the farther interference of the British court , a peace was concluded between Russia and the Porte on terms favourable to the former , in the month of August. This session of parliament closed on the 10th of June.

We have already noticed , that in 1789 a revolution took place in France , of that sweeping kind before which every ancient establishment in church and state , in government and society , gave way. The scenes that are about to open between Great Britain and France , render some farther notice of that revolution necessary in this place. The deranged situation of the finances of the country , occasioned in a considerable degree by the American war , which gratified the pride , while it undermined the strength of the French court , had induced his christian majesty to convoke , first an assembly of the notables , or principal men in the kingdom ; and , secondly , when these were found inadequate to the task , the states-general which had not been assembled since the reign of Lewis XIII. in 1614. These consisted of three orders , the nobility , the clergy , and the third estate or commons. The last were double the number of the other two orders united ; and , when the states-general



were assembled at Versailles, a contest arose, whether the three orders should make three distinct houses, or be blended in one assembly. The third estate insisted upon the latter, and were inflexible on this point: and assuming the title of national assembly, they declared that, as such, they were competent to proceed to business, without the concurrence of the other two orders if they still refused to join them. In the sequel the nobility and clergy found it necessary to concede the point, and they all met in one hall. In the mean time Paris was encircled by an army of fifty thousand men, with the apparent view of coercing that city, if necessary. Notwithstanding this, on the removal of the popular minister, M. Necker, in July, 1789, a dreadful insurrection ensued in Paris; the military refused to fire upon the people; the Bastille, a prison long formidable to the Parisians, was captured by the citizens; the governor and some other obnoxious persons were beheaded, and their heads carried about in horrid triumph, on poles; in a word, eight weeks after the opening of the states-general on the fifth of May, a revolution was effected, which excited astonishment in all Europe. On the 17th of July, the king visited the Hotel de Ville, in Paris, and surrendered himself, as it were, to the people. From that moment he was deprived of all power as a monarch. The national assembly, now triumphant proceeded to new model the state. They abolished nobility and the whole feudal system; and confiscating the possessions of the clergy, rendered them dependent for support on a public allowance, like the servants of the state: and all the monasteries were suppressed. In October, in consequence of  
another



another dreadful riot at Versailles, the king, the royal family, and the national assembly, were removed to Paris. The king was now, in fact, a state prisoner, treated with the formalities appendant to royalty, but watched in all his motions with the utmost circumspection. From this irksome situation he attempted to escape in June 1791, with the queen, his sister, the dauphin, and the princess his daughter. He had almost reached the frontiers, when he was arrested at Varennes, and conducted back to Paris. Such, however, was then the moderation of the popular party, that no disastrous consequence ensued. The national assembly completed a new constitution, which was accepted by the king in September of the same year, when this assembly dissolved itself, and a new one was chosen to the exclusion of every member of the former, a measure of self-denial which laid the foundation for all the future miseries of France.

When intelligence of this revolution first reached England, no measures had been adopted by the national assembly which were particularly obnoxious. In their progress, however, when they attacked those forms which are connected with our monarchical system, it was seen by some, and generally disseminated by writings, particularly a celebrated work by Mr. Burke, that their intentions were the destruction of monarchy, and the establishment of republicanism, or anarchy, such as prevailed in the commotions of Charles 1st's reign. Various societies in this country, on the contrary, saw in all this only the restoration of liberty to twenty-five millions of fellow-creatures, and rejoiced in the event. In the year 1790, some of these societies met to



celebrate the revolution of 1789, and these meetings were attended by persons of different political principles. The publication of Mr. Burke's *Reflections* about the conclusion of the same year, gave rise to a controversy, in which abstract principles of government were discussed with no great delicacy or temper; and works of a very seditious tendency appeared in answer to Mr. Burke. The whole nation became involved in a war of principles, and hence in the summer of 1791, when the French Revolution became again the subject of a commemoration, the populace were incited to resent this introduction of a democratic spirit. In London, although a very numerous company assembled to celebrate the 14th of July 1789, such was the vigour of the police that the day passed quietly; but in Birmingham, where a small company had agreed to meet, a dangerous riot took place. The mob rose in the afternoon, dispersed the company assembled at an hotel, and then proceeded to take vengeance on those, who, though not present, had rendered themselves obnoxious. Two dissenting meeting-houses were burnt to the ground. The house of Dr. Priestley, a philosopher of great eminence, was attacked, from which he had barely time to escape. The furniture, library, and extensive philosophical apparatus were set on fire, and totally consumed. The houses of a few other gentlemen, the friends of gallic liberty, were also destroyed, without any immediate molestation from the civil power. Peace was not restored till the arrival of some troops from Nottingham. Many of the rioters were afterwards taken into custody and tried, and three were executed.



The parliament did not assemble till the thirty - first of January 1792. In the royal speech, his majesty announced the marriage of his son, the duke of York, with the princess Frederica, daughter of the king of Prussia. He informed the houses, that a treaty had been concluded, under his mediation and that of his allies, between the emperor and the Ottoman Porte, and preliminaries had been agreed upon, between the latter of those powers and Russia. These subjects occasioned considerable debates in the house, but the motions founded upon them were carried by great majorities. Mr. Pitt laid before the house a most flattering state of the public finances, and thought himself authorized to propose the repeal of a part of the more burthensome taxes, to the amount of about 200,000l. per annum, and at the same time to apply the sum of 400,000l. to the reduction of the national debt, in aid of the annual million appropriated by parliament. These sums were stated to be part of a clear surplus of 900,000l. on the annual revenue. The minister added, that although it was impossible to count with certainty on our present prosperity, unquestionably there never was a time when, from the situation of Europe, we might more reasonably expect a durable peace than at the present moment.

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1792.

At the instance of Mr. Wilberforce, the affair of the slave-trade was again introduced on the second of April, and he renewed his motion for the abolition. Mr. Dundas, now secretary of state, in the room of the duke of Leeds, who resigned in the preceding year, moved that the word *gradual* should be inserted before *abolition*. Mr. Pitt deci-



dedly opposed this alteration, in a speech replete with eloquent and pathetic sentiments; but it was carried by a majority of sixty-eight votes. Mr. Dundas then moved, that « the importation of negroes into the British colonies should cease on the first of January, 1800.» Lord Mornington, however, proposed the first of January 1796, and a series of resolutions founded on this basis were then agreed to, and sent up to the house of peers, where they were postponed for the present session, by a motion, that evidence be heard, not before a select committee but at the bar of the house. On this occasion, his royal highness the duke of Clarence, his majesty's third son, distinguished himself in a speech against the abolition.

In the course of last session, Mr. Fox had moved for a bill to ascertain the rights of juries in matters of libel which passed through the house of commons, but was rejected by the lords. This year he again moved the same, and it passed into a law, but was strongly opposed in the house of lords, and a protest against it signed by the lord chancellor (Thurlow), lords Bathurst, Kenyon, (lord chief-justice), Abingdon, Walsingham, and the bishop of Bangor. By this bill, however, the duties of juries in matters of libel, as respecting fact and law, are explicitly laid down.

The numerous seditious writings which had appeared since the French revolution, gave considerable uneasiness to administration; and in the month of May, a royal proclamation was issued against them, enjoining magistrates to vigilance in repressing such attempts to disturb the peace of the realm. This proclamation being laid before parliament,



loyal addresses were presented from both houses, and were followed by addresses in the same spirit from all parts of the kingdom, and prosecutions were instituted against the publishers or authors of seditious writings. Thomas Paine, author of two books, entitled the Rights of Man, was convicted in the court of king's-bench, but had left the kingdom before his trial, and was afterwards outlawed.

The only other subject of importance agitated in this session, related to the war in India of which it will now be necessary to give some account. From the year 1784, when the East-India company concluded a peace with Tippoo Saib, he had grown very formidable, and was supposed to have been attached to the interests of the court of France, by which he was incited to disturb our possessions. In the summer of 1789 he made an attack against Cranganore, a fort which had been recently sold by the Dutch to the Rajah of Travancore, an ally of the English company. On the first of May 1790, the rajah made an attack on the army of Tippoo, and the English government joined in defence of their ally. The grand Carnatic army immediately assembled under the command of general Meadows, and marched through the southern or Coimbatore country, and advanced towards the city of Seringapatam, the capital of Mysore. On the western side the Bombay army, under general Abercrombie, after reducing Cannanore, and several other places on the coast, entered the kingdom of Mysore. The sultan, Tippoo, defending himself with great resolution, general Meadows found it necessary to retreat to the vicinity of Madras, where, in the month of December 1790, lord Cornwallis, the governor-general,



took the command of the army in person, and resolved to force a passage to Seringapatam through the country lying directly westward of Madras. On the twenty-first of March 1791, the important town of Bangalore was taken by storm, with little loss on the part of the British; on the thirteenth of May, the army arrived in sight of the capital of Mysore, defended by the sultan in person, and on the next day, an action took place, in which Tippoo sustained a partial defeat, but the swelling of the Cavery, in an island formed by which Seringapatam is situated, together with the want of provisions, compelled lord Cornwallis to retreat to Bangalore, at the same time that general Abercrombie, who had planned a junction with lord Cornwallis, was also obliged to lead back his army, amidst innumerable disappointments and fatigues. The next campaign, however, was decisive. In the month of February 1792, the eastern and western armies effected a junction under the walls of Seringapatam. On the seventh a general attack was made by moonlight on the lines of the sultan, in consequence of which, the capital became closely and completely invested. Upon this, Tippoo sent a vakeel to the camp of lord Cornwallis to sue for peace, which was granted upon the following terms: — That he should cede one-half of his dominions to the allied powers, pay three crores and thirty lacks of rupees, as an indemnification for the expences of the war; release all the prisoners, and deliver two of his sons as hostages for the due performance of the treaty. These terms being accepted, on the nineteenth of March, the definitive treaty, signed by the sultan, was delivered by the young princes, the hostages, into the



hands of lord Cornwallis. This war was supposed to have been provoked by the intrigues of the court of France, now in no condition to support projects of the kind. On the fifteenth of June the session of parliament closed with a speech, in which his majesty expressed his great concern at the actual commencement of hostilities in different parts of Europe.

This alludes to the declaration of war made by the French against the emperor of Germany in the month of April, and a league having been formed between the emperor and the king of Prussia against the measures of the French assembly, the forces of the two powers were united, and the command of the combined army given to the duke of Brunswick Lunenburgh, who, in the month of July, published from Coblentz, a declaration addressed to the inhabitants of France, and stating the causes for which Prussia and Germany had united their forces: to co-operate with him in those purposes, the duke invited the sober part of the nation, which he considered as the majority, to declare themselves openly against the odious enterprises of their oppressors; and, as general commandant in chief of the two armies, he declared, that the allied powers had no other object in view than the welfare of France, without any pretence to enrich themselves by making conquests; but to restore the king to that safety which was necessary to his making such convocations as he should think proper, and for endeavouring to ensure the welfare of his subjects according to his promises, and to the utmost of his power. All national guards (for so the new military in France were now called) who should oppose the entrance of the combined army into France, if taken



with arms in their hands, were to be treated as enemies, and punished as rebels to their king, and as disturbers of the public peace. The regular French troops were likewise required to submit, and, upon non-compliance, were threatened to be treated as rebels to their lawful sovereign; and the inhabitants of cities, towns, or districts of all descriptions, who should molest the troops of the allied army in their progress, should be punished with loss of life, and confiscation of their estates. The governing powers of Paris, and its inhabitants in general, were called upon instantly, and without delay, to set their king at liberty, and submit to him, on pain of military execution on refusal. If the palace of the Tuileries should be forced or insulted, if the least violence should be offered to the king, queen, or royal family, and if they were not immediately placed in safety and set at liberty, the city of Paris should be given up to military execution, and exposed to total destruction. All acts of the king, while restrained, were declared to be null and void.

This ill-judged publication produced effects the very opposite of what were intended. The executive power of France was suspected, not only of not properly exerting the national force against the enemy, but of acting in concert with them, and with the emigrant princes, and others who were in arms against their country. This suspicion, however slightly founded, proved fatal to the king, although one of the most humane princes that had ever sat on the throne of France. In August 1792, the mayor of Paris, at the head of a deputation from that city, appeared at the bar of the national assembly, and demanded the deposition of the



king. Before they could deliberate on this demand, a dreadful insurrection ensued : the Tuileries, the residence of the royal family, was attacked ; the Swiss guards were defeated and massacred ; and the king and royal family fled for refuge to the national assembly. That body instantly decreed the suspension of the executive power in the hands of the king, and the convocation of a national convention. The king and his family were conveyed to a house in Paris, called the Temple, and there kept in close confinement, accompanied by circumstances of studied cruelty and humiliation. The convention met on the twenty-first of September, and instantly decreed the abolition of royalty, and the formation of a republic on the principles of what they termed liberty and equality. In December following, they decreed that the king should be tried before them. The trial accordingly took place, and this tribunal, which absurdly exercised at once the incompatible characters of accusers, prosecutors, and judges, condemned the unfortunate monarch, who was, in pursuance of their sentence, publicly beheaded, in the Place de Louis XV. now called the Place de la Revolution, on the 21st of January, 1793. It ought to be added, that since the deposition of the king, the prisons had been filled with persons accused of disaffection to the ruling powers, and on the second of September they were forced open, and a most horrid and indiscriminate massacre of the prisoners took place. Other suspected persons, many thousand priests, and the principal nobility had made their escape, and the greater part took refuge in England, where an allowance was provided for the poorer sort. After various successes,



the combined armies were attacked at Jemappe, near Mons, by the French army, and a signal victory gained: before the end of the year the whole of the Austrian Netherlands, except Luxemburgh and Liege, were subjected to the arms of France. So rapid was their progress, and so great were the distresses of the combined armies, arising from a scarcity of provisions, from a long rainy season, and from a considerable mortality among the Prussians, that the latter retreated from the dominions of France, and the Austrians soon followed them.

These events were not beheld with unconcern in England. Decrees passed in the national convention, supposed hostile to the peace of this country, induced the ministry to call the parliament together as early as the thirteenth of December, previous to which a royal proclamation was issued; stating that notwithstanding the late proclamation of the twenty-first of May, the utmost industry was still employed by evil-disposed persons within the kingdom, acting in concert with persons in foreign parts, with a view to subvert the laws and constitution; and that a spirit of tumult and disorder, thereby excited, had lately shewn itself in acts of riot and insurrection; and that these causes moving him thereto, his majesty had forthwith resolved to embody part of the militia of the kingdom. This proclamation occasioned great alarm; the troops were marched to the vicinity of the metropolis, the guard at the bank doubled, and the fortifications of the Tower of London repaired, while meetings were held in all parts of the kingdom, from whence issued loyal addresses to the throne, more pointedly in support of the king



and constitution than any which had yet been published.

In the opening speech, his majesty alluded to the necessity he was under of attending to the internal government of France; the strong and increasing indications which had appeared there, of an intention to excite disturbances in other countries, to disregard the rights of neutral nations, and pursue views of conquest and aggrandizement, as well as to adopt towards his allies the states-general, measures which were neither conformable to the law of nations, nor to the positive stipulations of existing treaties. Under these circumstances, his majesty thought it right to have recourse to those means of prevention and internal defence with which he was entrusted by law, and to make some augmentation of his naval and military force. The opposition to these measures was very ineffectual; an amendment to the address having been supported by only fifty voices against two hundred and ninety in the house of commons. In that of the lords, the address was carried without division, and the most vigorous preparations for war were begun. A bill for forcibly transporting aliens out of the kingdom was passed, and the ports of Great Britain were shut against the exportation of corn to France, while it was permitted to her enemies. In the end, the ambassador of the republic, M. Chauvelin was ordered, under the authority of the alien-bill, at a short notice, out of the kingdom: and all hopes of reconciliation being precluded by the respective measures adopted by France and England, the convention, on the first of February 1793, unanimously declared the republic of France at war with



the king of Great Britain , and the stadtholder of Holland.

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The war now commenced on the part of Great Britain , in conjunction with the allied powers of Germany and Prussia. Troops were sent to the continent , and the duke of York , his majesty's second son , appointed commander in chief. The campaign was , upon the whole , favourable to the combined armies. They defeated the French under general Miranda , and raised the siege of Maestricht. Those under general Valence were also defeated , and soon after general Dumourier , who assumed the command of the disconcerted armies of Valence and Miranda , was attacked by the prince of Cobourg and general Clairfait , and defeated at Tirlemont ; and finding himself opposed in his plans by the French rulers , after an ineffectual attempt to seduce his army , he made his escape into England , which he was immediately ordered to leave. Condé and Valenciennes surrendered to the combined armies , the latter to the duke of York , who made afterwards an unsuccessful attempt on Dunkirk. In the mean time the English and Spanish fleets were received into the harbour of Toulon , where lord Hood published a proclamation , declaring his intention in entering the harbour , which was to retain the ships , naval stores , and arsenal , until a regal government should be established in France , and then they were to be restored to the monarch. Toulon was now garrisoned with eighteen thousand men of different nations , the kings of Spain , Naples , and Sardinia , having joined the confederacy against France. Sweden Denmark , Tuscany , and Genoa , remained neutral.



neutral. In November, sir Gilbert Elliot, general O'Hara, and lord Hood, were appointed commissioners to treat with the French royalists at Toulon. The French, however, in the beginning of December, by vigorous attacks, regained Toulon, and the combined fleets, before abandoning the place, on the eighteenth of that month, set fire to the arsenals, blew up the powder magazine, and burnt nine ships of the line, besides frigates and ships on the docks. In the West Indies, a detachment of British troops effected a landing upon that part of the island of Hispaniola, which belonged to the French.

During this campaign, Paris presented a scene of horrors unparalleled in the history of civilized nations. Numerous executions took place of not only individuals, but whole families suspected of disaffection to the ruling power, which was now chiefly in the hands of Maximilian Robespierre, a man risen from obscurity, and known only for his crimes. Among the illustrious victims of his cruelty was the helpless and unoffending queen, who perished by the guillotine, on the 16th of October, in the thirty-eighth year of her age. Her sufferings had been previously aggravated by the mockery of a trial.

In England various persons were tried for seditious publications; and in Scotland two were tried for seditious practices, and banished to Botany-Bay.

The parliament met on the twenty-first of January; in the royal speech his majesty adverted to the successes of the preceding campaign at Valenciennes, Toulon, and the Indies; and to pursue the war with vigour

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was declared to be a duty we owed to ourselves, in order to compel the French to such terms as might be suitable to our honour. The sentiments of this speech were vigorously combated by the opposition, now thinned of their numbers by the desertion of the duke of Portland, earl Fitzwilliam, earl Spencer, lord Loughborough, appointed lord chancellor, and many distinguished members of the house of commons. An immense majority, therefore, voted on the side of the ministry. For the service of the navy eighty-five thousand men were granted; and the total of the British army, including regulars, militia, and fencibles, was stated to be above 140,000 troops. The supply of the year was estimated at 19,940,000 l. and eleven millions were allowed to be raised by loan. An ineffectual attempt was made to revive the subject of abolishing the slave-trade, to which the house of lords continued to shew the greatest reluctance. Administration exerted themselves to frustrate the designs of a decree passed in the French convention, respecting French property in foreign countries, which enacted that all merchants, capitalists, and others, who are possessed of funds in foreign countries, shall make a declaration of all the effects and funds possessed by them abroad, and of all the merchandizes in foreign countries. To counteract the natural effects of this measure, the English parliament passed a bill to prevent the application of debts in the hands of any of the subjects belonging to his majesty, to or for the disposal of persons resident in France, under the power of the persons who exercise the present government in France, and for preserving the produce of such property to the individual owners thereof.



As the French also had threatened this country with an invasion, it became necessary to call forth a force sufficient to repel the attempt. For this purpose the secretary of state addressed circular letters to the lord lieutenants of the several counties, ordering them to take the sense of the inhabitants upon the best mode to be pursued, in order to insure the internal defence of the kingdom, either in case of invasion by a foreign enemy, or in case of riots and disturbances at home. In consequence of these letters, meetings were held in most cities and considerable towns in the kingdom, and large sums of money were subscribed to raise troops. A bill was afterwards introduced, but passed with considerable opposition, to empower his majesty to employ Frenchmen in the British service. A large sum of money was also voted as a subsidy to the king of Prussia.

On the twelfth of May, the secretary of state brought a message from his majesty, purporting that having received information that seditious practices had lately been carried on by certain societies in London, in correspondence with societies in different parts of the country, and avowedly directed to the object of assembling a pretended general convention of the people, in contempt and defiance of the authority of parliament, he had therefore given directions for seizing the books and papers of the said societies in London, which had been seized accordingly; and that his majesty had also given orders for laying them before the house of commons, and recommending them to consider the same. About this time, one Hardy, a shoemaker, secretary of the London Corresponding So-



ciety, and Mr. Adams secretary to the Constitutional Society, together with Mr. Horne Tooke, John Thelwall, and Jeremiah Joyce, were taken up and committed to the Tower, under a charge of high treason. A bill was also brought in to empower his majesty to secure and detain such persons as shall be suspected of conspiring against his person and government: this to remain in force until February 1795.—The session closed on the eleventh of July.

The success of the allied armies was this year completely reversed. The allies lost the advantageous positions they had formerly acquired, and what was of infinite consequence to France, she had quelled a most dangerous rebellion, as it was called in la Vendée, upon which the hopes of Europe were fixed. But the mortification arising from these events was considerably lessened by the brilliant success of the British arms in other quarters. Martinico, St. Lucie, and Guadaloupe, in the West Indies, were taken, and Corsica not only submitted to our arms, but consented to remain under the British crown, and to be governed by a constitution framed for the purpose. But the most splendid action of the war hitherto, was the victory gained by lord Howe over the French fleet, on the second of June. The French had twenty-six sail of the line, and the English twenty-five. Seven of the French ships were captured, and most of the remainder materially damaged. The rejoicings on the account of this victory were great and general. In the East-Indies, the French lost Pondicherry, Chandenagore, and Mahie.

In the course of this campaign, however, the



French had stretched their arms to the western borders of Spain with considerable success, and their other army regained the whole of the Austrian Netherlands, Landrecy, Quesnoy, Condé, and Valenciennes. They also gained possession of Ostend, Brussels, Ghent, and Antwerp, and in December; by the great rivers being frozen, their armies were enabled to pass the Rhine, and the Waal, and by a series of manœuvres soon over-ran the United Provinces, but this event more strictly belongs to the ensuing year.

The principal occurrence which drew the attention of the public at the close of this year, was the State Trials. On the second of October, a special commission was opened for the trial of Thomas Hardy, John Horne Tooke, John Augustus Bonney, Stewart Kyd, Jeremiah Joyce, Thomas Holcroft, John Richter, John Thelwall, John Baxter, Thomas Wardle, Matthew Moore, and Richard Hodgson, for high treason. Of these, Thomas Hardy, John Horne Tooke, and John Thelwall, only were tried, and acquitted, and the rest were dismissed without trial.

On the 30th of December, the two houses of parliament met, and his majesty stated in the opening speech, that notwithstanding the disappointments and reverses which were experienced in the course of the last campaign, he retained a firm conviction of the necessity of persisting in a vigorous prosecution of the just and necessary war in which we were engaged. His majesty also observed, that the states-general had been led by a sense of present difficulties, to enter into a negotiation for peace with the party now prevailing in France; that he



had accepted the crown and sovereignty of Corsica; that he had concluded a treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation, with the united states of America; and that a treaty of marriage had been concluded for the prince of Wales and the princess Caroline, daughter of the duke of Brunswick.

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Much of this session was distinguished by motions made by the opposition, to obtain a repeal of the act by which the habeas-corpus act was suspended; to prove that the existence of the present government of France should not be considered, at this time, as precluding a negotiation for peace, and to promote other measures hostile to those of the administration; but these were all negatived by large majorities. At the same time petitions for peace were presented to the throne from several counties and corporations, some paying respect to the ministry, and others loading them with censure. To some of these last, counter petitions were presented. For the purpose of carrying on the war, a sum amounting to six millions was voted to be raised to enable the emperor of Germany to send into the field an army of two hundred thousand men. An hundred thousand men were voted for our navy. The total of the supplies for the year, including six millions of exchequer bills, amounting to the sum of twenty-eight millions, one hundred and twenty-eight thousand pounds. The sum to be borrowed this year was eighteen millions, and the new taxes were laid upon wine, spirits, tea, insurance, customs, stamp duties, regulation of franking, and hair powder licences.

On Wednesday the eighth of April, his royal highness the prince of Wales was married to the prin-



cess Caroline of Brunswick, his cousin; and on the twenty-seventh, a message was delivered from his majesty to both houses of parliament, relative to the debts of the prince of Wales, and an increase of his establishment. The purport of the message was, that the debts should be gradually discharged from the produce of the Duchy of Cornwall, and part of the increased allowance for the establishment of his household. A bill was brought in for these purposes, which occasioned very warm debates. Mr. Pitt stated the prince's debts to be between 6 and 700,000 l. no part of which could be defrayed out of the civil list, as so many charges had lately fallen on that, and moved, that the sum of 125,000 l. *per annum*, be allowed the prince, exclusive of the Duchy of Cornwall. This was carried though with great opposition, and a part of his highness's revenue being appropriated to pay his debts, commissioners were appointed to manage that business; these were, the speaker of the house of commons, the chancellor of the exchequer, the master of the rolls, the master of his majesty's household, and the surveyor of the crown lands. On the twenty-seventh of June, the parliament was prorogued.

It has already been noticed, that the severity of the winter by freezing the rivers in Holland, gave the French army under general Pichegru, an easy access to that country. The states of Friesland first renounced their alliance with England, and entered into treaty with the French. On the tenth of January, the French crossed the Waal, with an army of 70,000 men, and attacked general Walmoden, who commanded the allied army on the departure of the duke of York, and who was now every



where defeated; and no farther opposition remaining, the cities of Utrecht, Rotterdam, etc. opened their gates to the French, who soon after took possession of the whole of the United Provinces. The stadtholder, upon receiving intelligence that the French had crossed the Waal, took immediate measures for his flight, and to secure what property he could. He very fortunately effected his escape on board a small vessel, which was ready to sail on the nineteenth, and, after some difficulty, arrived with his family in England, where the palace of Hampton-court was fitted up by the beneficence of the British sovereign, for his reception. The Dutch proceeded after this to form a new republican constitution on the French model, and entered into an alliance offensive and defensive with that people, who have since treated them rather as a conquered province than an independent nation in alliance. The British troops which survived the defeat of Walmoden, returned to England, through the greatest hardships and difficulties.

Towards the close of this campaign, however, the Austrians gained considerable advantages, compelling the French to repass the Rhine, and forcing their intrenchments near Mayence, which were deemed impregnable. On this occasion one hundred and six pieces of cannon, two hundred ammunition waggons, and two thousand prisoners, fell into the hands of the Austrians, and soon after the city of Mannheim surrendered, and towards the latter end of December, a truce was agreed upon for three months, during which time preparations were made for a campaign the most memorable in the annals of history. On the other hand, the French had pene-



trated, with very inconsiderable opposition, so far into the Spanish territories, as to cut off one member from the grand alliance. The court of Spain, alarmed for its existence, entered into a treaty of peace and alliance with the French government in the month of August. On the part of Great Britain, a body of French emigrants, admitted into British pay, and amounting nearly to seven thousand, were landed on the French coast to co-operate with the insurgents in that quarter, but on the twenty-first of July, they were surprised by the republicans, and were all killed or made prisoners, except nine hundred of the original body, and about fifteen hundred royalists who had joined them, and escaped on board the fleet. The principal emigrants taken were afterwards put to death by military execution.

By sea, the British fleet still preserved its superiority. On the twenty-third of June, lord Bridport, with the squadron under his command, attacked the French fleet close in with Port L'Orient. The ships which struck were the *Alexander*, the *Formidable*, and *Le Tigre*, which were with difficulty retained. If the enemy had not been protected and sheltered by the land, his lordship had reason to believe that the number would have been greater. Early on that morning, the headmost ships, the *Irresistible*, *Orion*, *Queen Charlotte*, *Russel*, *Colossus*, and *Sans-pareil*, were nearly up with the enemy; and a little before six o'clock the action began and continued till nine. The Cape of Good Hope and Trincomale, in the island of Ceylon, were added to the possessions of Great Britain. In the Mediterranean, the fleet under Admiral Hotham engaged with the French fleet, and took two ships of the line, but with the loss of an



English line of battle ship. The French also, in the course of this year, took the Berwick, and the Censeur, both of the line, and some merchant-men. But their success in negotiation was more decisive in favour of the Republic. Besides Spain, they concluded treaties of peace with the Dutch, the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Hesse Cassel, and the Elector of Hanover, and at last with the court of Berlin. They also in this year adopted a new form of constitution, by which the legislative body consisted of a council of ancients, amounting to two hundred and fifty members, and a council of five hundred. The executive power was entrusted to a directory of five members nominated by the two councils, one of whom was to quit his station annually.

On the twenty-third of April, the impeachment of Warren Hastings, esq. was finally determined in Westminster-hall. Of the members of the house of commons, near four hundred attended, but of peers only twenty-nine who determined to vote. On the first article of the charge, earls Radnor, Suffolk, Fitzwilliam, and Caernarvon, the duke of Norfolk and the lord chancellor, pronounced him guilty; out the other twenty-three peers pronounced him not guilty. Upon the other charges, their verdict was nearly the same. When the court had gone through the sixteen questions in this manner, Mr. Hastings was called to the bar, and informed by the lord Chancellor, that he was acquitted of the charges preferred against him by the house of commons, and that he was then discharged upon paying his fees. This memorable trial commenced on the twelfth of February 1788; but such were the delays by long adjournments, that the court in all this time had sat one hundred and forty-nine days.



The parliament assembled again on the twenty-ninth of October. His majesty assured the two houses, that it was a great satisfaction to him to reflect, that the prospect of affairs had been materially improved in the course of the present year; that the distractions and anarchy which had so long prevailed in France, had led to a crisis of which it was then impossible to foresee the issue; but if that crisis should terminate in any order of things compatible with the tranquillity of other countries, and afford a reasonable expectation of security in any treaty which might be concluded, the appearance of a disposition to negotiate for a general peace on just and suitable terms, would not fail to be met on his part, with an earnest desire to give it the most speedy effect. Convinced that nothing could accelerate a peace so much as carrying on the war with the greatest energy and vigour, his majesty farther stated, that he was making the greatest exertions for maintaining and improving our naval superiority, and for carrying on vigorous operations in the West Indies. He also informed the two houses, that he had concluded engagements of defensive alliance with the two imperial courts, and ratified a treaty of commerce with the united states of America.

The opening of this session was distinguished by a scandalous outrage committed on the person of his majesty by the populace, as he was going in procession to the house of peers. Besides other rude marks of popular phrenzy, when his majesty had arrived at the narrow part of Palace-yard, something was discharged against the carriage with the velocity of a bullet. As soon as his majesty had



retired from the house of lords, evidence was called to their lordship's bar on this affair, which evidence was also transmitted to the commons. A royal proclamation was soon after issued, offering a reward of one thousand pounds, for the apprehension of any of the persons concerned in the outrage upon his majesty, but it produced no effect. One Kidd Wake was taken up for hissing and hooting the king, and afterwards indicted for a misdemeanour, and sentenced to solitary confinement in Gloucester jail, for five years.

The sentiments of the ministry and of the majority of the people on this outrage may be gathered from a proclamation which was issued on the fourth of November, and laid before the house of lords. It stated that various large meetings of the people had been held lately, particularly one in the fields near Copenhagen-house, in the vicinity of the metropolis, the very day before that on which the parliament met, at which several violent, inflammatory, and seditious speeches had been uttered by divers persons, tending to produce tumult, riot, and confusion; and in consequence of those meetings, a violent and unwarrantable attack had been made upon the person of his majesty. The proclamation, therefore, commanded all magistrates, etc. on the intention of any such meeting hereafter to be held, coming to their knowledge, that they should immediately attend the place where such meeting was designed to be held, and use all lawful means to prevent the same from being held, and to disperse the people, etc.

But as this was merely recommending the use of means already in the hands of the magistrate, and



which might prove too weak to suit the exigencies of the case, two bills were introduced into the house, the one for the better security of his majesty's person and government, and the other for the more effectual prevention of seditious meetings and assemblies. Although there was no question as to the propriety of securing his majesty's person from insult, the principle of the last of these bills excited much opposition, particularly without doors. Meetings were held in all parts of the kingdom to consider the subject; addresses and petitions were presented to the crown and parliament, conveying the sentiments of such meetings. The number of petitions, or addresses, in favour of the two bills was sixty-five, and the number of signatures, as far as stated on presentation, twenty-nine thousand nine hundred and twenty-two; but the number of petitions against them was ninety-four, and the signatures one hundred and thirty-one thousand, two hundred and eighty-four. In parliament, however, the majorities in favour of these bills were as great as they had usually been in all questions of importance since the commencement of the war.

The whole of the force employed in the service of the year was stated by the secretary at war, to amount to 207,000 men. The amount of the supply was stated by the chancellor of the exchequer, at 27,662,082 l. ; a loan was negotiated of eighteen millions, and new taxes were laid upon property descending to collateral heirs, also upon pleasure and labour-horses, and printed cottons; and alterations were made in other branches of the revenue, the whole of which estimated at 1,123,000 l.

On the eighth of December, an important message



was communicated to the parliament, in which his majesty acquainted them, that the crisis that was depending at the commencement of the present session had led to such an order of things in France, as would induce his majesty (conformably to the sentiments he had already declared) to meet any disposition to negotiate on the part of the enemy, with an earnest desire to give it the fullest and speediest effect, and to conclude a treaty of general peace, whenever it could be effected on just and suitable terms for himself and his allies. On this message, however, no proceeding was at present founded.

A. D.  
1796.

In the month of February, when a motion was made for peace, by a member in the opposition, the minister assured the house that the interval of the Christmas recess had not been misapplied, and that on the contrary he and his colleagues had pursued all possible means to open every avenue to negotiation. Matters were in train to meet any overture which the French might offer, and that, if necessary, he was ready to make the first opening.

On the eighteenth of April, the second budget was presented to parliament by Mr. Pitt, who observed, that when he presented the last, he proposed to raise 135,000 l. by a tax upon printed cottons; but since that time he deemed it advisable to relinquish it, and substitute new taxes in its place; these were a tax upon dogs, hats, and an additional duty on wine, calculated in all at 740,000 l. On the fifth of July the parliament was prorogued by his majesty with a speech, in which he expressed that the happiest effects had been experienced from the provi-



sions they had made for repressing civil tumult and sedition, and for restraining the progress of principles subversive to all established governments, and that he should ever reflect with heartfelt satisfaction on the uniform wisdom, temper, and firmness which had appeared in all their proceedings since he first met them in that place, and that they had omitted no opportunity to prove their just anxiety for the re-establishment of general peace, on secure and honourable terms. Next day, a proclamation was published for dissolving the parliament, and calling a new one.

During this session an attempt was made to sound the inclinations of the French directory as to peace. On the 8th of March, a note was transmitted to M. Barthelemi, ambassador of the French republic to the Helvetic body, from the British cabinet, through the hands of Mr. Wickham, requesting that he would transmit in writing his answer to three interrogatories: « Whether there was a disposition in France to open a general negotiation for the establishment of a general peace upon just and equitable terms, by sending, for that purpose, ministers to a congress, at a place which might be afterwards agreed upon? Whether there was a disposition to communicate the general grounds of a pacification, such as France would be willing to propose, in order that his majesty and his allies might in concert examine thereupon? Whether they were such as might serve as the foundation of a negotiation for peace? or, Whether there was a desire to propose any other way whatever, for arriving at the same end, that of a general pacification? » M. Barthelemi, in answer to this note, informed Mr. Wick-



ham, that he had transmitted his note, to the executive directory, who had signified to him, that they ardently desired to procure for the French republic a just, honourable, and solid peace; and that the step taken by Mr. Wickham would have afforded to the directory real satisfaction, if the declaration itself, which that minister makes, of his not having any order or power to negotiate, did not give room to doubt of the sincerity of the pacific intentions of his court. They declare farther, that, charged by the constitution with the execution of the laws, they cannot make or listen to any proposal that would be contrary to them. The constitutional act does not permit the directory to consent to any alienation of that, which, according to the existing laws, constitutes the territory of the republic. Here this negotiation, if it may be so called, ended, the British minister declaring, in a note published April 10, that as the directory had avowed the inadmissible pretension of appropriating to France all that the laws actually existing there may have comprized under the denomination of the French territory, and that no proposal contrary to it will be made, or even listened to, nothing is left for the king, but to prosecute a war equally just and necessary.

The force of this country since the change in the posture of affairs on the continent, was necessarily directed to the foreign possessions of the enemy, or to the destruction of their naval power. With the former intention an armament was fitted out at Madras against the Dutch settlements on the Molucca islands, and on the appearance of this force at Amboyna, the Dutch governor and council surren-



dered the island and its dependencies by capitulation. The island of Banda surrendered in like manner soon after, and in both those places considerable treasure and valuable goods fell into the hands of the captors. The British forces also took possession of the Dutch settlements at Demerary and Issequibo, in South America, with the neighbouring colony of Berbice. Nor were the Dutch less unfortunate in the fate of their navy. In the month of August a fleet, consisting of three sail of the line, five frigates and sloops, with a storeship, having entered Saldana bay with a view to attack the Cape of Good Hope, were summoned to strike to the British fleet of superior force, which then came up, commanded by Sir George Keith Elphinstone. Resistance would have been in vain had it been attempted; the whole were consequently captured, and the Dutch commander, Lucas, endeavoured to charge this disaster to the disaffection of his seamen. In various lesser actions, vessels of different kinds were taken from the French, Spaniards, and Dutch, in the course of this year.

On the other hand, the French opened the campaign on the continent, on the side of Italy, with the most brilliant prospects. Their army here was commanded by a young officer of the name of Buonaparte, a Corsican by birth, who soon signalized himself, and is accounted the most successful general of his day. To detail the various engagements between the French and Austrians, and the French and Italian states in this one campaign, which lasted almost without intermission until the month of April 1797, would alone require a volume far exceeding the limits of the present history. This cam-



paign did not end until the French were almost at the gates of Vienna; and while all or most of the petty princes of Germany had sued for peace, the French had overran the greatest part of the states of Italy, compelling each to receive what terms their general chose to dictate. But these victories were not merely followed by the humiliation of the vanquished. Peace with the French was the prelude to revolutions, which in one shape or other overturned all the ancient establishments of Italy, particularly the Popedom, in the room of which various republics were formed. These successes having given the enemy a superiority in the Mediterranean, the English viceroy at Corsica found it necessary to withdraw his troops from that island, and the government lately established was consequently overthrown.

A petty war between the English in Jamaica and the Maroons, descendants of the Spanish slaves, who refused to submit when the English took this island, and lived in a kind of independent state, had been carried on since the end of 1795, and in March, 1796, was concluded by the entire conquest of the Maroons, though not till after twenty battles, in which they displayed considerable prowess and fierceness. It was supposed they had been incited by the French, who also raised disturbances in Dominica, Grenada, and St. Vincent's, which were soon quelled. But the most remarkable attempt of the French was directed to the sister kingdom of Ireland, where they were instructed to expect assistance from a spirit of sedition and disaffection that had manifested itself in various parts of that country. On the 26th of December, about seven sail of



French ships, some of them of the line, made their appearance in Bantry Bay, but were prevented from landing by the tempestuous weather. By accident, a lieutenant and a few other men were driven on shore in a boat, and made prisoners. By their account, it appeared that an armament which had been preparing for some time at Brest, was intended for the invasion of Ireland, that the fleet consisted of seventeen sail of the line, with upwards of thirty frigates and transports, in three divisions, commanded by admiral de Galles, and that they had troops on board, from twenty to twenty-five thousand in number, under the command of general Hoche. This fleet, however, was driven away by the tempest, and returned to Brest and Rochelle, with the loss of a frigate captured by the English, and two seventy-four gun ships which ran on shore near Brest.

The new parliament was assembled on the 28th of September, and Mr. Addington, the former speaker, having been unanimously re-elected, his majesty addressed both houses in a speech from the throne, in which he assured them that it gave him peculiar satisfaction to recur to their advice, after the recent opportunity which had been given of collecting the sense of the people, engaged in an arduous contest for the preservation of all that was most dear; that he had exerted every endeavour to set on foot a negotiation to restore peace to Europe; that the steps he had taken for that purpose had at last opened the way to an immediate and direct negotiation; that he should immediately send a person to Paris with full powers to treat for peace: that the enemy had manifested an intention of attempting a descent upon these kingdoms: that, in



reviewing the events of the year they must have observed, that by the skill and exertions of the navy, our extensive and increasing commerce had been protected almost beyond example, while the fleets of the enemy were blocked up in their own ports; that the operations in the East and West Indies had been both honourable and advantageous to the nation. Notice also was taken of the temporary success of the Austrian arms at the beginning of the campaign, and of the conduct of Spain which had been induced by the French to declare war against this country.

In consequence of the intention of the enemy to invade Great Britain or Ireland, the minister proposed a very considerable augmentation of our forces for internal defence, by raising fifteen thousand men to be divided between the army and navy; by a supplemental militia, consisting of sixty thousand, a body of irregular cavalry, about twenty thousand, and a corps of seven hundred men expert in the use of fire-arms, consisting of game keepers, in all one hundred and two thousand men. When the house went into a committee of supply a few days after this, the secretary at war stated the whole force of this country at home and abroad to amount to one hundred and ninety-five thousand six hundred and seventy-four men. In December, the minister calculated the whole supplies of the year at 27,647,000 l. and the ways and means at 27,945,000 l. leaving a surplus of 298,000 l. A sum of 2,110,000 l. however, remained to be raised by new taxes which were laid on tea, coffee, auctions, bricks, spirits, Scotch stills, certain customs, assessed taxes, stamp duty, and some



other articles which were afterwards abandoned as oppressive or unproductive.

The principal business which engaged the attention of parliament before the recess, related to the negotiation for peace with France, of which it will now be necessary to give a succinct account. Lord Malmesbury, who was appointed by the British government on this important mission, left London on the 15th of October. On the 24th he presented to M. de la Croix, the negotiator on the part of the French Republic, a memorial pressing the establishment of a general principle, as a basis for definitive arrangements. In the first conference after the delivery of this memorial, it was demanded of the British negotiator, whether he was furnished with powers and instructions from the other belligerent powers to negotiate in their name? His lordship answered in the negative, but added, that when the directory should have explained themselves relative to the principle laid down in his memorial, he would dispatch couriers to instruct the different courts in the state of the negotiation, and to receive their orders. The English ambassador was then asked, whether he could not at least specify the principle of retrocessions which concerned the French Republic and Great-Britain? His lordship replied, that after the directory should have explained itself, he would likewise send couriers for instructions upon this point. All this the directory chose to consider as dilatory, and expressed their belief that the British government meant, by the present propositions, only a renewal, under a more amicable form, of Mr. Wickham's proposals last year; they also disagreed with the memorial respecting the sub-



ject of the basis of negotiation, which ought not to relate to the principle of cession, but to the common necessity of a just and solid peace; nevertheless, they would not reject any means of reconciliation; and intimated, that as soon as lord Malmesbury should produce sufficient powers from the allies of Great-Britain to stipulate for their respective interests, they would give a speedy answer to the propositions which might be submitted to them.

On the 12th of November, lord Malmesbury having received some further instructions from his court, presented another note to M. de la Croix, importing, that with regard to the injurious and offensive insinuations contained in the last answer of the directory, the king had thought it far beneath his dignity to allow any reply whatever to be returned on his part. M. de la Croix returned, in the name of the directory, an abrupt answer the same day, demanding that the English ambassador would point out directly the objects of reciprocal compensation which he had to propose; and reminded him, that the breaking off of the armistice by the emperor and king was no sign of a disposition in him to conclude a peace upon equitable terms. After some farther correspondence the British plenipotentiary delivered to M. de la Croix, on the 17th of December, a confidential memorial, containing the principal objects of restitution, compensation, and reciprocal arrangements. These were, FIRST, his Britannic majesty demands the restitution to his majesty the emperor and king, of all his dominions, on the footing of the *status ante bellum*: 2. The establishment of peace between the germanic empire and France, conformable to the general safety of



Europe. 3. The evacuation of Italy by the French troops, with an engagement not to interfere with the internal affairs of that country, which should be established, as far as possible, upon the footing of the *status ante bellum*. SECONDLY, with regard to the other allies of his Britannic majesty, he demanded that there should be reserved to her majesty the empress of all the Russias, a full and unlimited power of taking part in this negotiation whenever she might think fit, or of acceding to the definitive treaty, and thereby returning to a state of peace with France. THIRDLY, his Britannic majesty demanded, that the queen of Portugal might be comprehended in this negotiation, and might return to a state of peace with France without any cession or burthensome conditions on either side. FOURTHLY, on these conditions his majesty offered to France the entire and unreserved restitution of all the conquests which he had made on that power in the East and West Indies. His majesty offered, in like manner, the restitution of the islands of St. Pierre, and Miquelon, and of the fishery of Newfoundland, on the footing of *status ante bellum*. But if, in addition to this, his majesty were to wave the right given to him by the treaty of Utrecht, of opposing the cession of the Spanish port of St. Domingo to France, he would then demand, in return, a compensation which might secure, in some degree, the maintenance of the balance of the respective possessions in that part of the world. FIFTHLY, in all the cases of cession or restitution, which might come in question in this negotiation, there was to be granted on each side, to all individuals, the most unlimited right to withdraw,



with their families and their property, and to sell their land and other immoveable possessions; and adequate arrangements were also to be made, in the course of the negotiation, for the removal of all sequestrations, and for the satisfaction of the just claims which individuals of either side might have to make upon either government.

Another confidential memorial was then given, in which, with respect to Holland, it is asserted, that his Britannic majesty and his allies find themselves too nearly interested in the political situation of these provinces, to be able to consent in their favour to the re-establishment of the *status ante bellum* with regard to territorial possessions, unless France could, on her part, reinstate them in all respects in the same political situation in which they stood before the war. And with respect to Spain, that if the catholic king should desire to be comprehended in this negotiation, or to be allowed to accede to the definitive treaty, this would meet with no obstacle on the part of his majesty.

The purport of the French negotiator's observations on these conditions was, that the first memorial appeared to him to be liable to insurmountable objections; that it seemed to him to require much more than it conceded, and, in the event, not to leave France in a situation of proportionate greatness to the other powers of Europe. He said the act of their constitution, according to the manner in which it was interpreted by the best publicists, made it impossible to do what the memorial required. The Austrian Netherlands were annexed to France; they could not be disposed of without throwing the nation into all the confusion which must follow



follow a convocation of the primary assemblies. Lord Malmesbury said, that by the treaties existing between his Britannic majesty and the emperor; the two contracting parties reciprocally promise not to lay down their arms without the restitution of all the dominions and territories which may have belonged to either of them before the war. To this M. de la Croix replied, that the present government would be reprehensible in the extreme, and deserve impeachment, if they ever suffered the Netherlands to be restored: that Russia, Austria, and Prussia had, by the partition of Poland, increased their power in a most formidable degree; that England, by her conquests, had redoubled her strength, and was enabled by her Indian empire alone, to subsidize all the powers of Europe against France; and that her monopoly of trade had put her in possession of a fund of inexhaustible wealth.

In the course of this conversation, lord Malmesbury informed the French minister, that he must not harbour any expectation that his majesty would relax, or ever consent to see the Netherlands remain a part of France. The day after this conversation, lord Malmesbury received a note from the Directory, through the hands of M. de la Croix, desiring him to sign the confidential note, which had been sent without a signature, and to deliver, within twenty-four hours, his *ultimatum*, signed by him. His lordship having complied with the former request, received on the 19th of December, a note from the Directory informing him, in answer to his two notes of the 17th and 18th of December, that the French Executive Directory will listen, to no proposals contrary to the constitution, to the



laws, and to the treaties which bind the republic. His lordship was also ordered to depart from Paris in eight and forty hours.

In consequence of this hasty termination of an embassy on which the public expectation had been anxiously fixed, a message was delivered to the house of commons from his majesty, stating, that his majesty, with great concern, acquainted the commons that his earnest endeavours to effect the restoration of peace had been unhappily frustrated and that the negotiation in which he had been engaged had been abruptly broken off by the peremptory refusal of the French government to treat, except upon a basis evidently inadmissible; and by their having, in consequence required his majesty's plenipotentiary to quit Paris. On the 30th of December this message was taken into consideration, and although some difference of opinion seemed to prevail as to the importance of the Netherlands as a *sine qua non*, only thirty - seven members voted against the opinion of his majesty's ministers on the whole of the negotiation.

A. D.           The attention of parliament soon after  
1797.       its reassembling, was called to an affair  
             of great national importance. On the  
26th of February, a resolution was adopted by the privy-council, prohibiting the directors of the bank from issuing any cash, till the sense of the legislature should have been taken with regard to the extraordinary state of affairs. The cause of this order was that the frequent exportation of bullion and cash, had concurred with the practice of hoarding promoted by the late alarms, to render coin extremely scarce; and so great a demand for it



arose in different parts of the country, that the pecuniary exchange of the notes of the Bank became a matter of extreme difficulty and inconvenience. On the 28th, the house of commons appointed a committee for examining the affairs of the Bank, who reported a very favourable view of their finances, but the prohibition of payment in cash was ordered to be continued for a certain time. The Bank were, however, empowered to issue notes of two pounds and one pound, and a great quantity of dollars were stamped and issued, which relieved the public considerably. In time, the alarm occasioned by these measures gradually wore off, and the inconvenience from want of cash began to be felt less and less, as public confidence returned.

On the 26th of April, a second budget was opened by the chancellor of the exchequer, who intimated that the progressive demands of the year might be expected to exceed fifteen millions, exclusive of the former supplies of the session. The loan for which he had agreed was for fourteen millions, and a half, out of which a million and a half would be charged to Ireland; but stipulations had been made for an ulterior loan of above three millions and a half, if it should be thought expedient to gratify the emperor with further advances. The new taxes to raise the sum of 1,284,000 l. were, additional stamps on agreements, copies of deeds, private transfers of property, newspapers, plate, bills of exchange, and some others which were afterwards abandoned for taxes on horses, coals, pepper, clocks and watches, and Scotch spirits. The session closed on the 20th of July. Much of the latter part of it was taken up in debates on the removal of



ministers, and on schemes for quelling a most dangerous mutiny in the navy, which was happily effected, and the principal agents of it punished with death.

While the nation at large, and the city of London in particular, were in a state of alarm, owing to the stoppage of payment at the Bank, an event happened which diverted public attention to a more pleasing object. This was the glorious victory achieved by Sir John Jervis. This able officer had cruised for some time in expectation of meeting with the Spanish fleet; and he was at length apprized by his scouts, that the enemy had been discerned at the distance of only four leagues. Notwithstanding that his fleet consisted of only fifteen sail of the line, and that of the enemy apparently amounted to no less than twenty-five, he determined to engage them. Having arranged his ships in the most compact order, he sailed with such expedition, that he reached the Spanish fleet before it was disposed with due regularity or connexion. He had so strong a confidence in the valour and discipline of his men, that he did not scruple to depart from the ordinary system, as a considerable degree of enterprize seemed requisite at the commencement of a war with the Spaniards. He therefore passed through their fleet, in a line rapidly formed, and by tacking separated one third of it from the main body. After a conflict which continued about five hours, he defeated the enemy, and captured four ships, namely, two of 112 guns, one of 84, and one of 74. It was then found that the whole Spanish fleet consisted of twenty-seven sail of the line. In this engagement, which took place near Cape St. Vincent on the 14th of February,



300 men were killed or wounded on the part of the victors; but in the ships which were taken, the list of those who lost their lives, or were wounded, amounted, according to the account given by admiral Jervis, to 603. As a reward for this gallant action, the honours of the peerage were conferred upon the commander by the title of Earl St. Vincent, Lord Jervis.

During the summer, it has already been noticed, that a very dangerous mutiny broke out in the navy at Portsmouth, which, after being apparently quelled broke out a second time with more alarming symptoms, and continued with great obstinacy for some weeks, when the mutineers became divided among themselves, and the majority returned to their duty after giving up the ringleaders.

During the last session of parliament, it was resolved that a plenipotentiary should be sent to France for a renewal of negotiation. A letter from Lord Grenville, proposing a treaty was politely answered by the French minister, and the scene of conference was fixed at Lille. Accordingly lord Malmesbury was again deputed as the negotiator on the part of Great-Britain, and Letourneur on the part of the French republic. The negotiation commenced in the beginning of July; but such insurmountable difficulties were created by the conduct of the ruling party in France, that lord Malmesbury returned to England, in September, without effecting the object of his mission.

The nation certainly felt this second disappointment of their hopes, but no blame was thrown upon the British ministry or their negotiator, and an event now took place, which dismissed all consi-



deration of the treaty, and created in the minds of all men a proud exultation.

This was a naval victory more glorious than any we have yet recorded, which was gained by the British fleet, commanded by admiral Duncan, over the Dutch fleet. This latter had been long prevented from quitting the Texel, but when admiral Duncan, who commanded the British fleet on that station, had retired for the purpose of refitting, the Dutch took the opportunity of sailing out of their usual place of refuge. Captain Trollope observed their motions, and gave seasonable notice to the admiral, who hastily advanced with his fleet, consisting of fourteen sail of the line, and two ships of fifty guns. De Winter, the Dutch admiral, had fifteen large ships under his command, and he prepared for the conflict with firmness and intrepidity. An engagement ensued on the 11th of October, near that part of the coast on which stands the village of Camperdown. It was the grand aim of admiral Duncan to break the line of his adversaries; and he found means to get between them and the land. The first attack was directed to their rear, and was conducted by vice-admiral Onslow, who, in the *Monarch*, distinguished himself by the vigour of the charge, while the other ships of his division took a very active part. The gallant admiral, in the *Venerable*, soon made way through the line of the Dutch, and their van and centre were fiercely attacked. At length De Winter's ship was so injured as to be indefensible, and he struck his flag. In the whole, nine sail of the line and two frigates were captured by the English. In this engagement, above seven hundred and fifty men were killed or wounded



in the British fleet; the loss of the vanquished was much more considerable, they having 540 killed, and 620 wounded. Nothing could exceed the national rejoicing on account of this victory. The gallant admiral was created a peer, by the title of Viscount Duncan, and admiral Onslow was created a baronet. In December, a day of solemn national thanksgiving was appointed for the three great naval victories achieved by lord Howe, and admirals Jervis and Duncan; and on that day their majesties went in procession to St. Paul's cathedral, accompanied by the members of both houses of parliament.

Notwithstanding the brilliant success of the British navy in the year 1797, the enemy did not relax from the activity necessary to present a formidable appearance. On the meeting of parliament in January, 1798, his majesty intimated that he had received intelligence of measures taken in France, apparently in pursuance of a design of attempting the invasion of these kingdoms. This communication produced the most active measures; besides a bill imposing a triple assessment of taxes, some members of parliament expressed an intention of contributing beyond the amount of the demand, and the directors of the bank were authorised to receive voluntary subscriptions, which soon amounted to a very considerable sum. His majesty subscribed 20,000 l. and the queen 5,000 l. and all inferior ranks vied with each other in this sacrifice at the altar of patriotism. It was also carried in parliament to call out a part of the supplementary militia, to obtain an account of the number of persons able and willing to defend their country, and to authorise his majesty to require their active service in case of emergency.



This was followed, in every part of the country, by associations of reputable housekeepers and gentlemen, who enrolled themselves in volunteer corps, learned the military exercise, and were soon qualified by strict discipline, as well as firm resolution, to protect the country from internal commotions and foreign invasion. Among other subjects of finance, proposed in this session, was a plan for the redemption of the land tax, which was carried after some ineffectual opposition.

Provision having been made for the aggregate supply for the year, the bill for suspending the *habeas corpus* was passed, in consequence of a message from his majesty, expressing that the preparations for the embarkation of warlike stores and troops were carried on with considerable and increasing activity in the ports of France, Flanders, and Holland, and that the French were encouraged, in their scheme of invasion, by the correspondence and communication of traitorous and disaffected persons and societies in this kingdom. Several persons were accordingly apprehended on the charge of corresponding with the enemy, particularly Arthur O'Connor, an Irish gentleman, and some others, who were afterwards tried at Maidstone and acquitted, except one O'Coigly, who was convicted and executed. The session of parliament concluded on the twenty-ninth of June.

The incidents of the war were not as yet very important. As the small islands of St. Marcou, near La Hogue, had been seized by the English, and were used as posts of observation, the French, on the seventh of May, sent a flotilla of gun-boats to dislodge them, which were repulsed with very con-



siderable loss. On the other hand, the English were unsuccessful in an attempt to destroy the sluices and other works at Ostend. But these inferior objects soon gave way to the consideration of a dangerous rebellion which now broke out in Ireland. The disaffection among the lower classes in this country had been artfully exasperated by some men of influence and education, and their machinations were not wholly unknown to government.

They expected assistance from France; but whether that was not well concerted, or that they thought themselves strong enough to begin the attack, it is certain they resolved not to wait for the French. The twenty-third of May was the day appointed for the rebellious attack of the capital: but the strong measures adopted by government prevented the execution, and some of the leaders, among whom was lord Edward Fitzgerald, were apprehended and imprisoned. He, indeed, was so severely wounded in resisting those who came to take him into custody, as not long to survive the disappointment of his schemes. On the twenty-fourth, however, about one thousand men, armed with pikes and muskets, approached the town of Naas, and made an assault upon the king's troops, but being firmly opposed, they fled with precipitation, leaving about a hundred dead. Various engagements in different places were fought about this time, in all which the rebels were defeated, with great loss. In the mean while the marquis Cornwallis was sent over as lord lieutenant, in the room of earl Camden. His excellency announced that a pardon would be granted for offences committed on or before a certain day, upon such terms and with such exceptions as might be compatible.



In the mean time the house of commons in Ireland, having fully developed the schemes of treason, delivered a long report, in which it was stated, that the *Society of United Irishmen* had been formed in 1791; that from its commencement, the real purpose of those who were at the head of the institution, was to separate Ireland from Great-Britain, and to subvert the established constitution; but that for some time they did not avow their real aims: that a direct communication was at length opened with the French, whose concurrence was solicited and promised; that in 1796, arms and ammunition were provided by the party, and the most active system of terror was put in operation against magistrates, jurors, and all who ventured to support the laws: that the orders for disarming the mal-contents, and other measures of government, checked for a time the outrages of faction: but that the spirit of sedition and treason revived before the close of 1797; that Arthur O'Connor, who had been acquitted at Maidstone, and lord Edward Fitzgerald were among the leaders of the party: that the French were repeatedly urged to send succours; and that the conspirators would not at last have rebelled without such aid, if the vigorous measures of the court had not rendered it necessary for them to rise at once, or to abandon their purpose. Such is the outline of this conspiracy, in which it is evident that the artifices of a few leaders had deluded the mass of people into a belief that they were acting for the cause of their interest and liberties.

The populace were rapidly submitting to the terms of pardon offered, when about one thousand French



disembarked at Killala, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August. Very few of the natives at first joined this body: and the lord lieutenant marched in person with a considerable army to prevent an augmentation of their numbers. Before his excellency appeared, they attacked the king's troops under general Lake, at Castlebar, and compelled him to retire, as he was in an unprepared state; on the eighth of September, however, he encountered the enemy at Ballinamuck, and after a short resistance they surrendered.

This accelerated the submission of the greater part of the united Irishmen, but occasional depredations and outrages were still committed in different quarters. On the sixteenth of December, a French brig made a descent on the coast of Donegal, but hearing of the late defeat, retired. A fresh invasion, however, being meditated by the enemy, every precaution became necessary at sea. On the eleventh of October, sir J. B. Warren discovered some French ships near the Irish coast, and brought them to action next morning. The consisted of the Hoche, a ship of the line, and eight frigates: the Hoche was captured, and the frigates attempted to sail away, but three of them were taken the same day, and three afterwards: these vessels contained a considerable number of soldiers, and some of the Irish mal-contents; among the latter was Theobald Wolfe Tone, a man of some talents, who had acted as a negotiator at Paris, and who was now condemned to death, but prevented a public execution by suicide.

Convinced of their inability to make a successful descent upon the British islands, the French govern-



ment projected the reduction of Egypt , designing , at some future opportunity, to penetrate into India, either by the way of the Red Sea , or by the Persian Gulph. Accordingly a considerable expedition sailed from Toulon , in May , under the command of general Bonaparte, and admiral Brueys. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of June they appeared before Malta , and made themselves masters of that island ; and on the first of July their military forces were debarked at Alexandria. A series of successful engagements with the natives and Turks , elated the spirits of the invaders : but whilst they contemplated the subjugation of Egypt as inevitable , a most unexpected reverse of fortune awaited them. On the first of August the British admiral Nelson appeared off the mouth of the Nile , and discovered the French fleet lying at anchor in the bay of Aboukir. Admiral Bruey's ship had one hundred and twenty guns , and above one thousand men : three had eighty guns each , and nine seventy-four.

They were drawn up near the shore , in a compact and strong line of battle , flanked by four frigates, and many gun boats, and protected in the van by a battery , planted on a small island. The English admiral was not deterred by this appearance from making the attack. He had as many ships of the line as the French admiral , and he strengthened the line by the introduction of a ship of fifty guns : but, in approaching the enemy , he was deprived of the assistance of the Culloden , of seventy-four, as it struck upon a shoal , from which it could not be extricated before the next morning.

Admiral Nelson was very desirous of breaking the line of the French , and surrounding a part of  
their



their fleet ; and he executed his purpose with great ability and courage. At sunset the engagement commenced : and both parties fought with great spirit. While the victory was yet undecided, admiral Brueys received two wounds : and having changed his situation he was exposed to a fresh shot, by which he was killed. When the action had continued for two hours, two of the French ships were taken ; a third struck soon after, and the whole van was in the power of the English, who eagerly proceeded to a completion of their victory. L'Orient, the particular ship of the French commander, was warmly engaged with several of the hostile vessels, when an explosion indicated the danger of a conflagration, and soon after she blew up, a small number only of the crew escaping. The engagement was prosecuted at intervals till day-break : and only two of the French ships of the line, and two frigates escaped. The loss in the British fleet amounted to sixteen officers, and two hundred and two seamen and marines killed, and six hundred and seventy seven wounded. That of the French is supposed to have amounted to a much greater number. After this victory, admiral Nelson left part of his fleet to blockade the port of Alexandria, where Bonaparte had disembarked his troops, and sailed towards Sicily.

The intelligence of this glorious and important victory diffused extraordinary joy throughout every part of the British dominions. Numerous congratulations were presented to his majesty, the admiral was honoured with a peerage, by the title of lord Nelson of the Nile, and a day was appropriated for a solemn thanksgiving. This victory, while



it gave fresh splendour to the unexampled series of our naval triumphs, promised in its consequences the most important effects on the general state of affairs, and, as mentioned in the royal speech, afforded an opening, which, if improved by suitable exertions on the part of other powers, might lead to the general deliverance of Europe from the French yoke. The emperor of Russia was now induced to engage in the contest, the Turks, and the king of Naples likewise joined the confederacy: and several victories were obtained over the French, both in Italy and on the banks of the Rhine. The British cabinet, considering this a favourable opportunity for reinstating the prince of Orange, sent a powerful armament to Holland, under the command of the duke of York, and admiral Mitchell. The Dutch fleet in the Texel, consisting of eight vessels, surrendered to the British admiral; and the duke obtained some victories as he proceeded into the country; but as the Dutch were unwilling to co-operate, and as the French had received considerable reinforcements, it became necessary to fall back, and re-embark the troops for England.

While such was the state of affairs in Europe, Bonaparte arrived in France, after making his escape from Egypt in a small vessel, without the knowledge of more than one person in his army. Scarcely had he, to the astonishment of all France, landed on its shores, than he found the French, whose internal affairs had been for some time wretchedly conducted, ripe for another revolution. This he speedily effected by the assistance of some troops, and his personal influence, and established



a new constitution, placing himself at the head of it, in quality of Chief Consul. His first act of authority was to enter into a correspondence with the sovereigns at war with France, proposing a negotiation for peace. The British ministry, after diverting this correspondence from his majesty personally, into its proper channel, rejected his proposals, from a doubt of his sincerity or the stability of his new government. The other powers were equally indisposed to treat with him. On this, in the commencement of 1800, the Chief Consul prepared for a renewal of the war; orders were given for new levies to recruit the weakened armies, and loans were negotiated both in France and Holland. The campaign was opened in April, with considerable success on the part of the Austrians in Italy.

On the Rhine, the campaign was opened near the close of April, and at first was unfavourable to the French arms. A battle was fought on the fifth of May, between the Austrian general Kray, and the French general Moreau, which was contended with great spirit; the French are said to have lost the greatest number of men. This is usually called the battle of Moskirch. At length Bonaparte headed in person the army of reserve, and their progress was rapid and decisive. The cities of Milan, Pavia, etc. were again retaken, and an important victory was gained on the ninth of June, over the Austrians near Casteggio. But the most decisive of all, usually termed the battle of Marengo, was fought on the 14th of June, and after many vicissitudes, the Austrians being at one time victorious, ended in the defeat of the latter, with prodigious loss. The French reported that three thousand were kil-



led, five thousand wounded, and seven thousand taken prisoners. The Imperial Gazette, however, reckons, the killed, wounded, and prisoners, at nine thousand and sixty-nine, of which number five thousand two hundred and seventy-four were captives.

The consequences of this victory were highly important to the French, and joined to their successes in other quarters, led to an armistice, and this to a negotiation, signed by the count St. Julien on the part of the emperor, but did not produce a decisive treaty. The total defection, however, of the emperor of Russia from the confederacy, and other unfavourable circumstances, inclined the court of Vienna to another armistice, the terms of which were afterwards arranged.

We have already mentioned, that the design of the French in their expedition to Egypt, was to open a communication, by which they might hereafter co-operate with the enemies of Great-Britain in India. Nearly about the time, however, that they had effected their purpose in landing in Egypt, the principal foe of the British in India, Tippoo-Saib was doomed to lose his life and dominions, in a short but successful war which the English were compelled to declare against him. The active operations of this war were conducted by general Harris, who besieged and took Seringapatam, the capital of Tippoo's dominions. Among the slain was found the body of the tyrant, near one of the gates, among a heap of his lifeless subjects.

The Union of Great-Britain with Ireland had been for some time a favourite object with the British ministry; and, on the 21st of April, an act



was passed fixing the commencement of that union for the first day of the nineteenth century; and the parliament of the united kingdom was summoned to meet on the 22d day of January 1801. Proclamations were also issued respecting the alterations to take place in his majesty's titles, arms, flags, etc.

A change in the ministry now took place, supposed to have principally resulted from a difference of opinion in the cabinet, on the question of catholic emancipation in Ireland. Mr. Pitt and his friends resigned their high situations, after some delay, principally occasioned by a temporary indisposition with which his majesty was visited, and they were succeeded by Mr. Addington, formerly speaker of the house of commons, as first lord of the treasury, and chancellor of the exchequer; by lords Hawkesbury and Pelham, as secretaries of state, and lord Eldon, late chief justice of the common pleas, as lord high-chancellor.

England was placed, at this time, in a situation which required wisdom and promptitude in acting. The northern powers, instigated by Paul, emperor of Russia, had entered into an hostile confederacy, and were, in a considerable measure, become the allies of France. An armament was, therefore, fitted out in the British ports, consisting of seventeen sail of the line, etc. under the command of sir Hyde Parker and lord Nelson. This fleet sailed from Yarmouth on the 12th of March, and triumphantly passed the Sound, which had always been deemed impossible, and reached the capital of Denmark. The Danes had made considerable preparations. The attack, however, was instantly made by the English fleet, and after a very severe engagement,



lord Nelson offered a cessation of arms, which the Danes agreed to; they had lost eighteen ships, and Copenhagen was in the utmost danger. An armistice, therefore, was now concluded, and the death of the emperor Paul completely dissolved the confederacy.

In Egypt a new turn had been given to the war. A considerable force, dispatched from Great Britain, under the command of sir Ralph Abercrombie, effected a landing on the seventh of March, notwithstanding the greatest obstacles, and on the 13th, gave battle to a part of the French army near Alexandria, and compleatly defeated them. The English followed up their success by a second battle on the 21st of March, about four miles from Alexandria, in which they were likewise completely successful, but with the loss, almost irreparable, of their brave commander, who died on the 28th, of a wound he received in this engagement. These actions may be considered as decisive of the fate of Egypt. The command now devolved upon general Hutchinson, who proceeded towards Alexandria, where the principal force of the enemy was yet concentrated. The castle of Rosetta and town was taken, and the French garrison made but a feeble resistance. A force was also detached to Cairo, early in May. On the second of this month general Hutchinson, with 4000 British and an equal number of Turks, attacked the French near Rhamanieh, and compelled them to retreat to Cairo. On the 22d of June, the garrison of this place, exceeding 5000 men, capitulated upon terms, and the final conquest of Egypt was compleated by an inferior English force, with a bravery unparalleled in the history of this war.



The intelligence of the conclusion of this brilliant campaign was received in England on the same day that the preliminaries of peace were signed by M. Otto, on the part of the French Republic, and lord Hawkesbury on the part of his Britannic Majesty. This negotiation had been carried on for some months, but with impenetrable secrecy.

By the definitive treaty, which was concluded at Amiens, on the 27th of March 1802, Great Britain agreed to the restoration of all her conquests, the island of Trinidad, and the Dutch possessions of Ceylon excepted. The Cape of Good Hope was to remain a free port to all the contracting parties, who were to enjoy the same advantages. The island of Malta was to be evacuated by the British troops, and restored to the order of St. John of Jerusalem. Egypt was restored to the Ottoman Porte. The territory of Portugal was to be maintained in its integrity; and the French troops were to evacuate the territory of Rome and Naples. The republic of the seven islands was recognised by France. And the fishery of Newfoundland was established on its former footing.

With regard to the public at large, the peace unquestionably afforded the highest satisfaction. If its terms were not quite so favourable as some predicted, they were at least accommodated to existing circumstances, and they afforded a respite from that enormous load of expenditure which the nature of the war had rendered necessary, while we had the satisfaction to reflect, that throughout a struggle of ten years, with the common enemy of Europe and of constituted authorities, we had preserved our empire, our laws, our constitution, and our re-



ligion, from the violence of revolutionary power, and at the same time saw our commerce advance, and our commercial credit unimpaired.

Yet amidst the satisfaction so generally expressed on this occasion, it was not long before symptoms of mutual jealousy appeared between the governments of Great Britain and France.

On the part of the British, the hostility of Bonaparte to a commercial treaty, the plunder of Germany, the reduction of Switzerland, and the demands imperiously made for restraining the liberty of the press in England, were considered as obviously indicative of the dangerous ambition of the French consul; while our refusal to give up Malta, and an attempt to interfere in the concerns of Switzerland, were regarded by France, as acts of aggression on the part of Great Britain.

The ministry of this country, however, evinced no forwardness to complain, or to give Bonaparte reason to think them inclined to oppose him by any kind of hostility. Some increase in the naval and military establishments indeed were made, but nothing hostile appeared on our side before the month of March 1803, when the intentions of the enemy could no longer be mistaken, and when the points in dispute had been fully canvassed between the First Consul and the British ambassador.

In the mean time an event occurred which interested the country very much in its own preservation. It was generally supposed, that although the seditious societies which assembled in 1794-5, had become less open and less bold in their proceedings, in consequence of the laws enacted at that period, and of the spirit of the people at large having been



decidedly avowed against their machinations, yet it was suspected that the spirit of treason was by no means entirely suppressed, and that the disaffected party continued to hold a secret correspondence with the enemies of their country. At the head of a party of this kind was colonel Despard, a man who had once performed able services for his country, but either his ambition had been ungratified, or his mind had been corrupted by the worst principles of the French revolution. Certain it was, that as far back as 1797 government were apprized of his treasonable practices, and he was imprisoned during the suspension of the Habeas Corpus act, in the house of correction in Spa Fields; but on his being liberated in 1802, he entered into a more atrocious conspiracy than had yet been heard of: his plan was to corrupt the principles of the soldiers, and particularly of his majesty's guards: a society was formed of about thirty obscure individuals, whose numbers however, it was trusted would soon be increased: their principal object was the murder of the king, at the opening of parliament, while another party was to seize the Tower and the Bank, and to stop the mail-coaches, which last measure was to be a signal to the disaffected in the country to march to their assistance. Of this plot government were aware, but wisely allowed it to ripen, and evince the designs and guilt of the conspirators, before they interfered. Accordingly on Nov. 16, 1802, about thirty of the conspirators were arrested at the Oakley-arms, in South Lambeth, and committed to prison. Their trials came on in February following, when Despard, and five others, were convicted



upon the clearest evidence , and were executed on the 21st of that month , on a platform erected on the top of the new gaol , in Southwark.

The ambition of the First Consul of France , and the reluctance he manifested with respect to commercial relations with this country , became every day more apparent , as well as an inclination to treat Great Britain as a conquered nation. This he evinced by the unjustifiable violence offered to British property in France , and the denial of justice to British subjects in the French courts ; he even refused to restore the vessels captured in India by the French , after the signature of the preliminaries was known to both nations. His most distant , though not less obvious designs , appeared likewise in his sending a number of persons to Great Britain and Ireland , under the plausible name of commercial commissioners , but who were in fact all military officers , who employed themselves in obtaining such information as could be serviceable only in case of an invasion.

The possession of Malta , however , was laid hold of by the first Consul as the chief object in dispute , and a peremptory demand was made for its evacuation. This brought on a long and protracted negotiation between the French and English courts , which had from the beginning such an aspect , that on the 8th of March 1803 , his Majesty sent a message to both houses of parliament , stating , that as very considerable military preparations were carrying on in the ports of France and Holland , he had judged it expedient to adopt additional measures of precaution for the security of his dominions : that though these preparations were



avowedly directed to colonial service, yet as discussions of great importance were then subsisting between his majesty and the French government, the result of which must at present be uncertain, his majesty was induced to make this communication to his faithful parliament, in full persuasion that, while they partook of his majesty's earnest and unvarying solicitude for the continuance of peace, he might rely with perfect confidence on their public spirit and liberality to adopt such measures as circumstances might appear to require, for supporting the honour of his crown and the essential interests of his people. Addresses were voted in both houses in consequence of this message, and a grant made of 10,000 seamen as an addition to the present number of his majesty's naval forces. On the 10th of March another message was received by the houses, which stated that his majesty had thought it necessary to exercise the powers vested in him by act of parliament for calling out and embodying forthwith the militia.

The negotiations alluded to went on for a considerable time, till all probability of agreement having vanished, lord Whitworth left Paris on the 10th of May, about which time the French ambassador, Andreossi, left London, and on the 18th the British government published a declaration of the causes of complaint which they had to alledge against France, and this was soon after followed by the issuing of letters of marque and reprisal. All these proceedings received the full sanction of parliament, although not without exciting debates of considerable length and interest.

But before we detail the measures that were taken



to provide for the safety of the country in this new war, it will be necessary to notice certain rebellious proceedings in Ireland, which occurred in the summer of 1803, and, according to every probable account, were excited by persons in connexion with the French government. This new conspiracy was conducted principally by Russell, Emmett, and Dowdall, men of some abilities and education, but headstrong, desperate, and grossly unprincipled. Emmett and Russell had been concerned in the rebellion of 1798, and after the war, had been allowed to transport themselves. They accordingly took refuge in France, and there appear to have brooded over their supposed wrongs, and to have contrived their scheme. They returned to Ireland in 1802, and remained for some time concealed under fictitious names. In this disguise, however, they found some associates as desperate and unprincipled as themselves, and had the art to procure or manufacture a large quantity of pikes and other arms, at a house, in Thomas-street, Dublin. They also contrived to train their associates in some degree, and to provide stores of arms and gunpowder in their respective habitations, all ready to be brought into general service at the appointed time. Their design was to seize the castle of Dublin, to consider the troops of the line as prisoners of war, but to massacre such of the militia or volunteers as should oppose them. A similar rising was expected in all parts of the country, the signal for which was to be the stopping of the mail-coaches. All this, however, appears to have been mere delusion for the purposes of partial mischief; a mob they might and did raise, but the spirit of the



country was against them. Whether aware of this, or that they thought it necessary to perpetrate something worthy the name of treason, we know not, but they fixed on the 23d of July as the time of general insurrection. About nine o'clock in the evening of that day, the signal was given by the firing of rockets, and the doors of their magazine were opened, when Emmett, Dowdall, and two other miscreants, Quigley and Stafford, rushed out at the head of their followers, and took their station in Thomas-street. The rebels did not exceed fifty, but as they put pikes into the hands of all the mob who were willing to join them, their number soon amounted to about five hundred; still this would have answered no general purpose, had they not been provided with an opportunity to satiate their malice by the shedding of innocent blood.

The malignity of some of the conspirators had induced them to dispatch a forged summons to lord Kilwarden, the chief justice of the King's bench, to attend a council on this fatal evening; and it was during the height of the insurrection that this amiable and venerable magistrate, accompanied by his daughter Miss Wolfe, and his nephew, a clergyman, arrived in Thomas-street, in his way from his country house to the castle. Lord Kilwarden and Mr. Wolfe, his nephew, were inhumanly dragged from the carriage, and pierced with innumerable wounds by the pikemen; but Miss Wolfe, by some means, made her escape to the castle. Colonel Brown, a brave officer, who was hurrying to join his regiment, fell in among the rebels, and was cut to pieces; and others fell a sacrifice to their fury, before the military assembled in suffi-



cient numbers to disperse them, which was not done without considerable slaughter. Emmett, Dowdall, Quigley, and Stafford made their escape, but Emmet was soon taken, and with Russell, and some others, was afterwards tried and executed. As soon as the news of this massacre reached England, parliament found it necessary to repeal the Habeas Corpus act in Ireland.

The necessity of the war had now become so apparent, that perhaps in no period of our history can we mention an occasion which discovers such unanimity in support of the nation, as appeared a few weeks after the war was finally determined on. The threatenings of France were no longer disguised; invasion and extermination of the British name and nation were the sole and immediate design they attempted to pursue. The plunder of our island was held forth as an inducement for the armies to volunteer on this service, and even plans were published of the measures intended to be taken when the designs should be accomplished.

In all this, however, the French had miscalculated their own power, and our incapacity. Great Britain was certainly unwilling to go to war, if it could have been avoided, but for that necessity she was amply prepared. So little interval had taken place since the last war, that neither her naval nor her military spirit had had leisure to subside. Accordingly, a naval force was soon provided nearly double in number and force to what we had possessed at the commencement of any former war. The militia were next embodied, and the act for raising the army of reserve, in the course of a few months, added 30,000 men to the regular force of the coun-



try. An act had likewise been past, enabling his majesty to call out the whole mass of the people fit to bear arms, in different classes, and to put a certain proportion of them into immediate training. But the operation of this act was rendered unnecessary by the voluntary zeal which blazed forth on this, as it never had done on any former occasion.

The effect of this upon the mind of the first Consul of France was what might have been expected; he collected indeed three hundred thousand men on the coast, and had made great progress in preparing them for sea, but he never made the attempt, and found it more easy to revenge himself upon the helpless and unoffending, accordingly knowing that curiosity and affairs of business, had induced many English gentlemen to visit France, he ordered them all to be seized as prisoners of war; and in about two months after the commencement of hostilities the French troops were ordered to over-run and plunder the defenceless state of Hanover. The object of this invasion was evidently to take revenge on his Britannic majesty, as elector of Hanover, but he heard the news with dignified composure, and immediately ordered the spirited measure of blockading the Elbe, the Weser, the ports of Genoa and Spezia, Havre, and the ports of the Seine, and the intention of government being directed to such of the enemy's possessions abroad, as were accessible, the islands of St. Lucia, Tobago, Demerara, and Essequibo, the settlement of Berbice, the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and some others, were captured by the British troops. Several successful attacks were made on the enemy's invading coast, particularly on the port of Granville, the



town and fort of Dieppe and Boulogne, the grand depot of the invading army, and many of their vessels were destroyed.

The internal government of France, during the last year, underwent a change for which the people had been artfully prepared; the first Consul procured himself at length to be chosen chief magistrate by the title of Emperor, and the imperial dignity confirmed to him and his heirs. He afterwards bestowed the rank of princes on the collateral branches of his family, and the court was in all respects restored to its pristine splendor, and variety of ranks and orders. To all this, the people submitted not only with composure, but with their usual joy and vivacity; no traces of the revolutionary or republican spirit was allowed to remain, and Bonaparte ruled with less controul from laws of any kind, than the most despotic prince in ancient or modern times.

At home the additional supplies for carrying on the war were levied with very little disturbance or complaint, so amply were all convinced that our existence as a people depended on the aid given to government at so critical a period. An attempt was, however, made to procure a stronger administration than that which derived its name from Mr. Addington; and a negotiation was set on foot to procure a coalition between the Grenville party and Mr. Fox; Mr. Pitt was also to have a share in the new arrangement, but, for some reasons not explicitly avowed, this negotiation ended in Mr. Pitt's becoming prime minister, without any of the illustrious colleagues he intended as his associates. Mr. Addington resigned, and was soon after called up to the house of Peers by the title of lord Sidmouth.



About the conclusion of the year 1804, the court of Spain issued a formal declaration of war against Great Britain, in consequence of which the British council ordered reprisals and letters of marque to be granted. The conduct of the Spanish court was on this occasion considered as a matter of constraint, resulting from the fear of offending the Emperor of France, who was now committing unprecedented acts of violence and outrage, and began to regard his allies as vassals bound to comply with his will in all its capricious changes, and however repugnant to their inclination or interests. In consequence of these transactions, those other powers of Europe, which had yet possessed some degree of independence, but who saw no security in any species of treaty or security which France could offer, began to increase their armies, and prepare for war. Prussia only, partly from fear, and partly from shortsighted policy, determined to preserve its neutrality with the feeble hope that it would be respected by France, and offered to mediate between France and Russia. This, however, was refused by Russia, unless the French Emperor would admit Great Britain to negotiate at the same time, which was no part of his policy. Bonaparte had, indeed, in the beginning of 1805, made offers to negotiate by a letter addressed personally to his Majesty, whose answer, conveyed by Lord Mulgrave, Secretary of State, intimated that his Majesty could not enter into a farther discussion, without a communication with his allies, and particularly with the Emperor of Russia.

In the mean time Austria, alarmed at the march of some new French troops into Italy, demanded



an explanation, which was evaded; and, in the month of March, the Emperor of France declared himself king of Italy, but professed that from the period of its being evacuated by foreign armies, he would transmit the crown of Italy to one of his male children whether natural or adopted. Accordingly, by this sole act of arbitrary power, he was crowned at Milan on the 26th of May, with great pomp, and as a farther infraction on the independence of that country, Genoa was annexed to France. This last violence put an end to all hopes of pacification with Russia, and both there and in the Austrian dominions, the most formidable preparations for war were carried on, and treaties entered into with Great-Britain for such assistance as she might be enabled to afford.

In other respects, the war was hitherto, on the part of Great Britain, of the defensive kind, as far as concerned military operations. The navy, however, which blockaded all the ports of the enemy, and began to cover the seas, had its usual success, in capturing a prodigious number of his ships of war and commerce. France continued its menaces of invasion, and at one time had collected upwards of three hundred thousand men on the coast most adjacent and likely to further its purposes. The disputes, however, with Russia and Germany soon rendered it necessary to detach a great proportion of this force into other parts of Europe: and Bonaparte, with an ambition which universal empire only seemed sufficient to gratify, found a new enemy in every new acquisition of territory. In order to further his views of Germany, which amidst the most hypocritical professions of



forbearance, were regular, preconcerted and systematic, he endeavoured to separate the head of that empire from the members, declaring that he would consider all aggressions which may be attempted against the German body, and especially against Bavaria, as formal declarations of war, and that he would never separate the interests of the empire from those of the princes of Germany who were attached to him.

The Austrians contemning these menaces, passed the river Inn, and entered the Bavarian territories, with a force estimated at fifty-five thousand men, while the hereditary states came forward in support of their sovereign with an enthusiasm worthy of the best period of their history. The preparations on the part of Russia were no less extensive. It was generally understood that Austria had prepared above three hundred thousand, Russia one hundred and eighty thousand, and that the militia of Tyrol might be estimated at twenty thousand men. Such a force seemed to promise success, but such was the want of conduct or concert between these allied powers, and such the expedition of the French in bringing on engagements before the allies had matured their plans, that the war proved wholly disadvantageous to the latter, and was attended with reverses of the most disastrous kind.

The French army crossed the Rhine on the 25th and 26th of September 1805, in three divisions, and succeeded in bringing the Austrians to action before they were joined by the Russians, and defeated them at Wertingen and Gunsburgh with considerable loss. In the mean time, Bonaparte had recourse to one of those violent and tyrannical



measures which distinguish his government. Notwithstanding the neutrality religiously observed by the king of Prussia, the French army under general Bernadotte, amounting to twenty thousand men, entered the Prussian provinces in Franconia, and when this was complained of by the Prussian generals and ministers, the only answer condescended by the French commander was, that he had orders to pass by force, if it should be necessary.

The defeat of the Austrian army had as yet been only partial, but on the 13th of October Marshal Soult surrounded Memmingen, which capitulated, with a garrison of nine battalions. On the 19th the Austrians made a sortie from Ulm, attacked the French division under Dupont, by which they were defeated with the loss of fifteen hundred prisoners. In a few days, Ulm which was commanded by the Austrian general Mack, surrendered to the French under circumstances of a very suspicious kind: and at the battles of Wertingen, Gunsburgh, Memmingen, Ulm, and some inferior actions, the Austrians were computed to have lost forty thousand men.

The junction of the Austrians and Russians, which was at first attended with appearances of success, finally led only to a more signal and decisive action, in which the French, by their superiority in numbers, were completely victorious. This, which is generally known by the name of the battle of Austerlitz, was fought on the second of December. The Russian army consisted of fifty thousand men, and the Austrian of not quite twenty-five thousand, both which numbers were grossly exaggerated in the French accounts. The French amounted to nearly one hundred thousand, commanded by Bonaparte,



and the ablest of his generals. The number of killed and taken on either side have not yet been exactly ascertained. The consequence, however, was an armistice between the hostile armies, signed on the sixth, and a treaty of peace was concluded at Presburgh, on the twenty-sixth. According to the terms of this treaty, France was to continue in possession of the territories beyond the Alps, and the emperor of Germany was to acknowledge Bonaparte as king of Italy, but the latter agreed to separate the crown of Italy, and not to unite it again on the same head. The cessions on the part of the Emperor of Germany were sufficiently humiliating: on the other hand the emperor Napoleon guaranteed the integrity of the empire of Austria in the state to which he had now reduced it, as well as the integrity of the house of Austria.

The Russian army, after the battle of Austerlitz, kept the field until next morning, and when the armistice was concluded on the part of the Emperor of Germany, at his particular request, commenced their retreat, which was effected in good order, and without loss, notwithstanding the assertion of the French, that during the negotiations with Austria, their army prosecuted its victories.

While the emperor Napoleon was thus triumphing over Austria, dictating the most mortifying terms, and extending his continental power, and at the very moment he was declaring that he wanted only ships, colonies and commerce, his views were baffled by a victory on the part of the British navy, more glorious and decisive than can be paralleled in history.

Vice-admiral Lord Nelson had the command of the fleet destined to watch the Spanish harbour of



Cadiz, which at that time contained the combined fleets of France and Spain. On the 19th of October, it was communicated to his lordship that this fleet had put to sea, and as he concluded that their destination was the Mediterranean, he immediately made all sail for the entrance of the straits with the British squadron, consisting of twenty-seven ships, three of them sixty-fours. On Monday the 21st, at day-light, the enemy was discovered off Cape Trafalgar. The commander in chief immediately made the signal for the fleet to bear up in two columns, as they formed in order of sailing; a mode of attack which he had previously directed, to avoid the inconvenience and delay in forming a line of battle in the usual manner, while he gave out as the signal, « England expects every man to do his duty. » Never was expectation more amply fulfilled, nor orders obeyed with more perfect regularity and effect. The enemy's line consisted of thirty-three ships, of which eighteen were French and fifteen Spanish, the French under admiral Ville-neuve, who was also commander in chief, and the Spaniards under admiral Gravina.

The action began at twelve o'clock, by the leading ships of the columns breaking through the enemy's line; the commander in chief about the tenth ship from the van, and admiral Collingwood about the twelfth from the rear, leaving the van of the enemy unoccupied, the succeeding ships breaking through, in all parts, astern of their leaders, and engaging the enemy at the muzzles of their guns. The conflict was severe, and the enemy fought with acknowledged bravery, but the impulse of British skill and courage was irresistible. About



three in the afternoon, many of the French and Spanish ships having struck their colours, their line gave way. Admiral Gravina, with ten ships, joining their frigates to leeward, stood towards Cadiz. The five headmost ships in their van tacked, and standing to the southward, to windward of the British line, were engaged, and the sternmost of them taken: the others went off, leaving to his Majesty's squadron nineteen ships of the line, of which two were first rates, with Villeneuve, commander in chief, and two other flag officers.

Such a battle could not have been fought without sustaining great loss of men. The number of killed, however, did not exceed four hundred and twenty-three, nor that of the wounded eleven hundred and sixty-four. The gallant Nelson, however, already immortalized by the battle of Aboukir, fell in the arms of victory, just as he had achieved the present more extensive and memorable defeat of the enemy. About the middle of the action his lordship received a musket-ball in his left-breast, which was aimed at him from the top of the ship with which he was engaged. On his being carried below, he complained of acute pain in the breast, and of privation of sense and motion of the body and inferior extremities: his respiration became short and difficult: his pulse small, weak, and irregular; he frequently declared that his back seemed shot through: that he felt every instant a gush of blood within his breast, and that he had sensations which indicated to him the approach of death. In the course of an hour, his pulse became indistinct, his extremities and forehead cold, but he retained his wonted energy



of mind and exercise of his faculties, to the latest moment of his existence : and when victory, as signal as decisive, was announced to him, he expressed his pious acknowledgments, and heart-felt satisfaction at the glorious event, in the most emphatic language. He delivered his last orders with his usual precision, and in a few minutes after expired without a struggle.

The battle of Trafalgar immediately followed by an action eminently worthy to accompany its glories. Sir Richard Strachan, while cruising off Ferrol with four ships of the line, one of eighty and three of seventy-four guns, fell in with what he conceived to be a squadron of the French that set sail from Rochfort, and consisted likewise of four ships of the line of the same weight of metal. A most gallant action immediately commenced, and terminated in the total defeat and capture of these ships, which the conqueror then discovered to be part of the Cadiz fleet that had retreated from the battle of Trafalgar. Of the whole, therefore, of that combined fleet of thirty-three sail of the line, four only escaped, the rest being either taken or destroyed.

The intelligence of this victory was received at home with mingled sensations of joy and regret. It was impossible not to participate in the general congratulation, that we were now possessed of a navy which, humanly speaking, appeared to be invincible : but the reflection that we had lost the most gallant and accomplished officer in our service, in the prime of life, and the zenith of his fame, one who had long been the terror of our enemies, diffused a sensation of the deepest sorrow, which was manifested by every public testimony of regard for his



his memory. His remains having been brought to England, were interred in the cathedral church of St. Paul, accompanied by a procession which for extent and grandeur exceeded any thing of the kind ever known.

Nor was this the only circumstance which cast a damp on what would otherwise have gladdened the public mind. Notwithstanding our firm and justifiable reliance on our navy, which had done all that a navy can do, the critical state of the affairs of Europe could not fail to impress the apprehension that it was no longer possible to restrain the ambition of the French sovereign, and that the few remaining independent states, without more vigour and concert than had yet been discovered in their proceedings, must soon become either the allies or vassals of a power which had given many proofs that it was no longer to be restrained by the accustomed laws of justice and the rights of nations.

On the meeting of parliament, Jan. 21, 1806, these matters were introduced in the opening speech, when his Majesty congratulated the country on the late glorious victory, which had not only confirmed in the most signal manner our maritime superiority, but had essentially contributed to the security of his Majesty's dominions. It was also stated, that although the Emperor of Germany had felt himself compelled to withdraw from the contest, his Majesty continued to receive from the Emperor of Russia the strongest assurances of unshaken adherence to that generous and enlightened policy by which he had hitherto been actuated.

The two houses then proceeded to ordinary business of the session, which was very soon inter-



rupted by an event that deranged the plans of administration, and led to some important changes. We allude to the death of the Right Hon. William Pitt, a minister of high and acknowledged talents, who, with a short interval of retirement in 1801, had held the first office of state for twenty-three years. His health had been for some time in a state of decline, exhibiting symptoms of general debility, mixed with an hereditary gout, which put an end to his life on the 23<sup>d</sup> of January, and in the forty-seventh year of his age. There was reason to think that his death was accelerated by excessive anxiety and attention to business, and that the reverses experienced by our allies on the continent had contributed not a little to exasperate his disorder. Sensible that the nation had lost a minister of transcendent abilities, the parliament ordered a public funeral and monument, and every mark of respect was paid to his memory.

Soon after Mr. Pitt's death, his colleagues in office unanimously resigned their situations, and within a few weeks an administration was formed partly of those who had formerly acted with Mr. Pitt during his long administration, extending from 1783 to 1801, and partly of those who had always spoken and voted in opposition to his measures. Among the former were Lord Grenville, Earl Spencer, and Lord Sidmouth, and among the latter, Mr. Erskine, Mr. Grey, Mr. Sheridan, and Mr. Fox; Lord Grenville was appointed first Lord of the Treasury; Mr. Fox, Earl Spencer, and Mr. Windham, Secretaries of State; Lord Henry Petty, second son of the Marquis of Lansdowne, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Mr. Grey, first Lord



of the Admiralty; Mr. Sheridan, Treasurer of the Navy; Earl Moira, Master of the Ordnance; Earl Fitzwilliam, President of the Council; Lord Sidmouth, Privy Seal; John, Duke of Bedford, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; and Mr. Erskine, created Lord Erskine, Lord High Chancellor.

Among the first proceedings of this administration, which affected the state of war, was a message to parliament acquainting the houses, that his Prussian majesty having, in a moment of confidential intercourse, taken possession of his Britannic majesty's electoral dominions, and aggravated the injury by determining to exclude by force the vessels and commodities of this kingdom from ports and countries under the lawful dominion, or forcible control of Prussia, it became necessary to consider her as a hostile power. This event was soon after followed by a change in the constitution of Germany, of which the following is a brief outline.

The old constitutional union having been dissolved according to a plan proposed by the French Emperor, a new treaty of confederation was agreed on; and he caused himself to be declared Protector of the alliance: an honour which he certainly deserved, as being the contriver and imposer of the whole system; one consequence of which was that Francis II, was obliged formally to abdicate the high and important office of Emperor of Germany; and thus all the ties that had hitherto attached the states of Germany to the imperial jurisdiction and supremacy, were for ever dissolved.

The state of Europe in consequence of these transactions, which put an end to all hopes of restric-



ting the power of France , led eventually to an attempt to negotiate a peace between France and Great Britain. The correspondence relating to this matter began to take place soon after the establishment of the new administration , and much was expected from the apparent cordiality with which the two governments commenced their proceedings ; and from the character which Mr. Fox was supposed to hold at the court of France , as a statesman averse to a continuance of unnecessary hostilities , and desirous of listening to terms of mutual conciliation : but experience proved that the time was not yet come when the ambition of France would declare itself satiated , and listen to the voice of moderation.

The negotiation originated in an offer made by the French government of treating for peace , on the basis of actual possession , which was stated to admit of mutual compensation. This basis , however , was soon departed from , by the enemy , and it became sufficiently obvious that peace could only be obtained by such sacrifices as would be utterly incompatible with the honour and security of the British nation. After the conferences had been protracted , therefore , to an unusual length , the English plenipotentiaries returned , without effecting any thing.

The conduct of the French government had , indeed , now become so insufferable by its violence and perfidy , that even the king of Prussia , who had remained longer the ally of France than any other power in Europe , and had consequently submitted to more and greater instances of humiliation , was at length compelled to declare that



forbearance could be no longer practised, and as it appeared impossible to submit to more indignities, he stated that he must henceforth confide the safety and honour of his crown only to arms.

The period, however, which he had now chosen to resist the power of France was peculiarly unfortunate. He had left himself no ally: his troops had enjoyed a peace of so long duration, that they were utterly unacquainted with those changes that had been introduced in military tactics, and yet with all these disadvantages his majesty determined to risk the whole on the event of a battle. That battle was fought on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, at Jena, and completely decided in favour of the French, about half past three in the afternoon. The Prussian army is supposed to have amounted to ninety thousand men: while the French, commanded by Bonaparte in person, amounted to nearly double the number. The consequence of Prussia, as a continental power, was now annihilated, and infatuation completed what impolicy had begun.

The proceedings of parliament during this year were principally distinguished by the final abolition of the Slave-Trade, a measure which had been originally agitated about twenty years ago, and had been successively debated in almost every session of parliament since. Notwithstanding many disappointments and much obloquy, the friends of the abolition persisted in their endeavours, meeting every fresh discussion in the most open and liberal manner, until the conviction became general that this trade was disgraceful to the nation, and unnecessary to the welfare of our West India islands. The last question of abolition was introduced into par-



liament, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1806, by Mr. Fox; when it was carried by a majority of 114 to 15, and a similar motion was carried in the house of Lords a few days after by a majority of 41 to 20. The month of September was marked by the demise of the right hon. C. J. Fox, secretary of state for foreign affairs. He died at the seat of the duke of Devonshire, at Chiswick, in the fifty-ninth year of his age; and his remains were interred with great pomp in Westminster abbey.

Early in the following year, his Britannic majesty had an opportunity of demonstrating his zealous attachment to the Protestant religion; and this opportunity he embraced in a manner which will reflect everlasting honour upon his name and character. — A bill, having for its object the emancipation of papists from their present inability to hold places of trust, under government, had been introduced into parliament, and strenuously supported by the ministers. His majesty feeling it impossible to affix his assent to such a bill, without violating his coronation oath, was naturally offended, and required a solemn assurance from the ministers, that, after abandoning the measure, they would never again revive it. This proposal was rejected, and upon their consequent resignation, the duke of Portland was appointed first lord of the treasury, Mr. Canning, lord Hawkesbury and lord Castlereagh, secretaries of state; Mr. Perceval, chancellor of the exchequer; lord Mulgrave, first lord of the admiralty; and lord Eldon, lord high chancellor.

On the continent, appearances were, for a short time, favourable to the allies, and the laurels which Bonaparte had gathered so profusely in Italy and



Germany, seemed likely to wither among the morasses of Poland. Victory, however, returned to the French standards in the battles of Pulstuck and Eylau; Dantzic fell into their possession shortly afterwards; and in the grand contest which took place at Friedland, on the 14th of June, the Russians were defeated with such prodigious slaughter, that their emperor thought proper to sign an armistice at Tilsit, which was soon followed by preliminaries of peace. The Prussian monarch now abandoned by his imperial ally, was obliged to submit to his fate; and by the arrangements of the new treaty, he lost nearly half his possessions.

With a view to the advantage of the Russians, who were at the same time engaged in a war with France, and with the Turks, an English squadron, under the command of sir J. T. Duckworth, and sir T. Louis, forced the passage of the Dardanelles, and proceeded to Constantinople; but, after ten days fruitless attempt to accomplish this intended object, the British commanders judged it expedient to retire.

About the same time, intelligence was received of the recapture of Buenos Ayres from the British. The small force which had been left to protect this extensive acquisition, rendered the success of a revolt probable; and general Liniers, a French officer in the Spanish service, having excited a spirit of rebellion among the inhabitants, made an attack upon the town, the streets of which were soon filled by Spanish troops, whilst a war of ambush was carried on upon the tops of the houses. A flag of truce was therefore displayed on the castle, and the British forces, having capitulated, marched out with all the honours of war. An attempt was subse-



quently made to relake the town ; but it was frustrated , through the ignorance or pusillanimity of general Whitelocke , who , on his return to England , was tried by a court martial , and dismissed his majesty's service. The city and fortress of Monte Video , however , were taken by about four thousand British troops under the command of colonel Browne.

The court of Denmark having committed several acts of hostility against Great Britain , and it being suspected that the navy of that country was to be at the disposal of Bonaparte , an expedition was dispatched , under the command of lord Gambier , and earl Macartney , to offer protection against the French , or to take possession of the Danish fleet and naval stores. On the 16th of August the debarkation of the troops was effected , and the object of the fleet and army was fully explained to the people in a temperate proclamation. On the 2d of September a surrender of the naval stores and vessels of his Danish Majesty into the care of the British was formally demanded ; and on his demands being rejected , Copenhagen was bombarded , in the most severe manner , for three successive days and nights. The conflagration which ensued seemed to threaten nothing less than the destruction of the city ; in consequence of which the Danes requested an armistice ; and on the 7th their fleet , consisting of sixteen ships of the line , fifteen frigates , six brigs , and twenty-five gun-boats , together with the naval stores , were surrendered by capitulation. The property of the inhabitants was held sacred , and all prisoners were restored on this occasion.

Scarcely had the treaty of Tilsit been concluded ,



before the Corsican usurper meditated the complete subversion of the Spanish monarchy. He accordingly contrived, under various plausible pretences to introduce a powerful French force into Spain; he then prevailed on the king to abdicate his throne; and having succeeded in drawing his successor, Ferdinand, beyond the protection of the army, he sent him a prisoner to France, and proclaimed his own brother, Joseph, king of Spain, and of the Indies.

The general consternation which at first resulted from this daring outrage, on the part of the despot of France, had no sooner subsided, than a general insurrection broke out among the Spaniards, who declared eternal war against their base and audacious oppressors. The French troops were, in consequence, defeated in various parts, and Joseph Bonaparte, with his armed myrmidons, were compelled to quit the capital, in the most precipitate and disgraceful manner. A supreme and central junta were also formed; war was formally declared against France, in the name of Ferdinand the Seventh; and deputies were dispatched to implore the assistance of Great Britain, with which peace had been already proclaimed. Accordingly an expedition was fitted out, under the command of sir David Baird, and ample supplies of money, arms, and ammunition, were sent to the gallant patriots.

The successes of the Spaniards, however, proved but short lived; for Bonaparte, with that promptitude which so peculiarly marks his character, reappeared on the frontiers of Spain, with a numerous force, and, in a series of engagements, vanquished the patriots, regained the towns and fortresses of which they had taken possession, and entered the ill fated capital in triumph.



The prince regent of Portugal, who, under the protection of the English, had emigrated, with his court, to the Brasils, at a period when the French ruler had menaced his liberty and life, addressed a manifesto to his subjects, which occasioned an almost universal rising in the north of Portugal, and the consequent expulsion of the French forces, who from that quarter, had audaciously invaded the country. The Portuguese juntas, formed on this occasion, immediately solicited the aid of the British; and a powerful force, under sir Arthur Wellesley, was landed on the coast of Portugal, and proceeded towards the capital, in order to attack the French army under general Junot. After some skirmishes, in which the enemy were invariably foiled, a severe and obstinate battle was fought near the village of Vimiera, and the French were obliged to retreat, with the loss of thirteen pieces of cannon, and about three thousand men, in killed and wounded. On the following day, however, sir Hugh Dalrymple, who had been called from his situation of lieutenant governor of Gibraltar, to assume the command of all the British corps sent into Portugal, arrived at Cintra, the place which the conquerors had occupied after the battle; and, a few hours after his arrival, Junot sent in a flag of truce, proposing a cessation of hostilities. This was readily granted; and a convention was soon afterwards concluded between the two generals, by which the French army was to evacuate Portugal; on condition of being conveyed to France at the expence of the British. One article, however, which stipulated that the Russian fleet, then lying in the Tagus,



should either remain there unmolested, or return home, was peremptorily rejected by sir C. Cotton, to whom it was subsequently surrendered, on condition of being restored, six months after the conclusion of peace between Russia and Great Britain. The convention of Cintra excited the greatest dissatisfaction in England, and petitions poured in from all parts of the kingdom, calling loudly for an enquiry into that unaccountable transaction. A formal declaration of his majesty's disapproval of both the armistice and the convention was officially communicated to sir H. Dalrymple; and a court of enquiry was instituted, but without producing any thing worthy of notice.

The commencement of the year 1809 was marked by an event equally glorious and disastrous to the British forces in Spain. Sir John Moore who with the troops under his command, had penetrated almost to the centre of the kingdom, was compelled, by the overwhelming numbers of the French, to retreat with the utmost precipitation. On this occasion he displayed the most consummate skill, and in the engagement which took place on his arrival at Corunna, the enemy were completely defeated, and compelled to fly in all directions; but whilst the British troops, literally covered with laurels, embarked on board their transports without molestation, they had to regret the loss of their heroic commander, who fell at the commencement of the battle.

The hope of ultimately succeeding against the tyrant of the continent had nearly subsided, when the Austrian cabinet published a declaration of war against France. Bonaparte, however, having con-



trived to force himself between the principal divisions of the Austrian army, defeated them in several engagements, and soon made himself master of Vienna; and notwithstanding a serious repulse which he received from the archduke Charles, on the bank of the Danube, the battle of Wagram was so decisive, that the emperor of Austria was obliged to request a cessation of hostilities and subsequently to conclude a peace, upon very disadvantageous terms.

Whilst these occurrences were passing on the continent, the British cabinet hoped, by making a diversion in favour of their allies, to check the progress of the enemy: and sir Arthur Wellesley having again defeated the French troops, and chased them from Portugal, marched with a numerous force into Spain, and formed a junction with the Spanish army, commanded by general Cuesta, at Talavera. On the 27th of July an engagement took place, in which the French were compelled to retreat across the Alberche, with the loss of twenty pieces of cannon, a considerable quantity of ammunition and nearly ten thousand men killed and wounded. But as the British general received intelligence, soon after the battle, that the enemy designed to attack him, both in front and in rear, with a very superior force, he immediately recrossed the Tagus, and retreated to a strong position in Portugal. It must be added, that the heroic bravery exhibited by sir Arthur, in the battle of Talavera, induced his Britannic majesty to create him a peer, by the title of viscount Wellington.

With a view to occasion a further diversion on behalf of the Austrians, and also to attempt the capture



capture or destruction of the French vessels lying in the Scheldt, a British army of fifty thousand men was landed on the island of Walcheren; but a considerable time having elapsed prior to the reduction of Flushing, the enemy collected a numerous force, raised several formidable batteries, and conveyed their ships up the river, beyond fort Lillo. That part of the country also, where the English might have landed, was completely inundated. Walcheren, the only fruit of this expensive and unfortunate expedition, was to have been retained by the conquerors, for the purpose of shutting up the mouth of the Scheldt, and of facilitating the introduction of British manufactures into Holland. This design, however, was rendered abortive by the unhealthiness of the climate; and after great numbers of the troops had fallen a sacrifice, the British army evacuated the island on the 9th of December, having previously destroyed the fortifications, arsenal, docks, and bason. Some old ships filled with stores were also sunk at the entrance of the Scheldt, to preclude an escape of the French fleet from the place of its retreat.

The parliamentary proceedings of this year were rendered remarkable by an enquiry into the conduct of the duke of York, as commander-in-chief, in consequence of his having been charged with an illegal disposal of commissions in the army. His Royal Highness, though acquitted by a majority of the house of commons, resigned his office, in which he was succeeded by sir David Dundas.

Among the gallant actions which were performed this year by the British navy, we must notice an attack upon the French fleet in Basque roads, by



lord Gambier and lord Cochrane, on the 11th and 12th of April, when one ship of 120 guns, five of 74, and two frigates, were driven on shore in such a situation as ensured their destruction; and one of 80, two of 74, one of 50 guns, and three frigates were burnt. And to this exploit must be added the capture of a Russian flotilla and convoy in the Baltic, by Sir J. Saumarez: the destruction of three sail of the line, two frigates, and twenty French transports, in the bay of Rosas, by lord Collingwood; and the reduction of the islands of Cayenne, Martinique, Ischia, and Florida, and the city of St. Domingo.

Whilst these victories were extending the honour of the British arms abroad, the nation was exhilarated at home by the important and interesting event of their beloved monarch's entrance into the fiftieth year of his reign. It was accordingly celebrated as a jubilee by all ranks throughout the united kingdom. In the metropolis the joyous day was announced by the ringing of bells, the display of flags, and the assembling of the various corps of regular and volunteer troops. The forenoon was devoted to public worship; collections and subscriptions were made for the relief of indigent families, and the emancipation of poor debtors; and the evening was marked by a splendid and general illumination.

The commencement of the year 1810, was marked by the entrance of the French into Andalusia, their manœuvres having completely deceived the Spaniards. On the 29th of January they approached within two leagues of Seville, from which the inhabitants fled in all directions; and, in consequence of the general alarm excited by this irruption, im-



mense numbers sought an asylum within the walls of Cadiz. After some time, however, the general panic subsided, as little doubt was entertained of the final defence of Cadiz, and a supply of provisions commensurate with the increased population, arrived at this critical juncture. The Spanish fleet lying in the harbour was placed at the disposal of admiral Purvis; and both the military and political government of the fortress were entrusted to a mercantile junta, consisting of three distinct classes; as it was conceived that such characters were most likely to adopt the best means for the public security. Early in February the French entered Malaga, which was given up to be pillaged for two days. Almeida surrendered to the army under Massena on the 27th of August; and Seville was reduced to the most wretched condition by the unremitting demands of the invaders, and the ability of their general Soult. The flame of patriotism, however, continued to spread among the Spaniards, whose desultory mode of warfare against their cruel enemy, was, in many instances crowned with success; and notwithstanding the pompous gasconades of the French, with respect to Portugal, Lisbon remained secure beneath the shelter of the British arms, and the proud Massena thought proper to retreat before lord Wellington, after the battle of Busaco.

Whilst these occurrences were taking place in Spain and Portugal, Louis Bonaparte having in vain attempted to ameliorate the condition of the Hollanders, published a formal abdication of the crown; and on the 9th of July this unfortunate country was annexed to France by a decree of the Corsican tyrant, who after divorcing his *empress*



Josephine , had espoused the archduchess Maria Louisa, on the first of April !

At home , a considerable stir was occasioned for a short time by the punishment of sir Francis Burdett , for a breach of privilege. On the 12th of March this member made a motion in the house of commons , respecting the recent committal of John Gale Jones , the conductor of a debating society , for having announced , in a hand-bill , the following comparative question : « Which is most deserving the censure of the public , Mr. Yorke's enforcement of the standing order of the house , to exclude strangers from the enquiry into the Walcheren expedition ; or Mr. Windham's late attack on the liberty of the press ? » Sir Francis endeavoured to prove , that though the house had a power of committal over its own members , it had no such power over others : but that this assumption of authority was of very recent date , and that it infringed upon the liberty of the subjects , as provided for by *magna charta* and the bill of rights. His motion for the liberation of Jones being negatived , he afterwards addressed a letter on the subject to his constituents , through the medium of Cobbett's Political Register ; and on the 27th of March this letter was introduced to the notice of parliament , by a Mr. Leithbridge , who moved that the publication was a libellous and scandalous paper , and that sir Francis Burdett having admitted it as his production , was guilty of a gross breach of the privileges of the house of commons. After an adjournment for one week , both these resolutions were carried ; and a motion of sir R. Salisbury , that sir Francis should be committed to the tower , was also carried by a majority of 37 members.



On the 6th of April, the baronet, who had been apprised of these proceedings, came to town from Wimbledon; but in an interview with the serjeant at arms, he urged the illegality of the speaker's warrant for his committal, and expressed his resolution to resist its execution, if necessary, by force. The reports which were immediately circulated inflamed the minds of the people, to such a degree, that a great number of the lower order of persons assembled before the baronet's house, in Piccadilly, exclaiming, « Burdett for ever! » and imprecating vengeance on his enemies. At night they paraded the streets, constraining the inhabitants to illuminate their windows, and breaking the windows of all who refused to comply with this demand. The appearance of a troop of horse guards, together with Mr. Reid, the magistrate, and a number of constables, on the following day, excited the most alarming ferment in the multitude, which was now considerably augmented. Hisses, shrieks, groans, and every expression of indignation issued from all quarters; the guards were assaulted with showers of stones and brick-bats; and even after the riot act had been read, the commotion was so great, that it became necessary to send to Knight's-bridge barracks, for an additional body of cavalry, who galloped among the crowd and drove them up and down Piccadilly, and into the adjoining streets and alleys, where several persons were wounded, but only three seriously.

The following day, in consequence of the receipt of a letter from sir F. Burdett, the sheriffs of Middlesex arrived in Piccadilly, attended by the *posse comitatûs*, who formed a guard in front of



the baronet's house, while the horse guards, who had previously occupied that station, divided into two bodies, and took a position of about 500 yards on each side. The efforts of the sheriffs to appease the tumult, however, proved completely fruitless, and the horse guards were again under the necessity of dispersing the mob, sword in hand. At the same time considerable bodies of cavalry and infantry were marched to town, and pieces of artillery were planted in the park, and in each of the principal squares, to overawe the rioters.

At length, on the 9th of April, the officers having forced an entrance through the kitchen window, the baronet was taken, and conveyed in a glass coach, to the Tower, under a strong guard. The indignation of the multitude was now particularly directed against the soldiery, who on their return from the Tower, were assaulted so furiously, that they at length charged their assailants, and continued firing their carbines all the way through Fenchurch-street, where a ball entering a shop, mortally wounded a corn porter of the name of Ebrall. After his death coroners' inquests were held on him, and on the body of another person who had been shot in Piccadilly; and verdicts were returned of « wilful murder by life-guardsmen unknown. » An inquest was also held on a third person, but, as he was proved to have attacked the military, the verdict returned was « justifiable homicide. » At the prorogation of parliament, on the 21st of June, sir Francis was liberated from the Tower; and great preparations were made by his partisans to conduct him home in a triumphal procession; but this honour he declined, and retired,



with the utmost privacy, to his seat at Wimbledon.

Another circumstance which excited the public attention this year, was an attempt to assassinate his royal highness the duke of Cumberland, on the 31st of May, in his apartments at St. James's palace. About half past two o'clock in the morning, the prince was roused out of his sleep by two violent blows and cuts on the head, which were soon followed by a third. He then leaped out of bed, and, on receiving several other blows, retired to a small room adjoining his chamber; but the assassin followed him, and wounded him across the thighs. Being unable to find his alarm bells, his royal highness called Neale, his valet in waiting, who immediately hastened to his master's assistance, and gave an alarm. Soon afterwards the duke proceeded to the porter's room, and ordered Neale to awaken Salis, his Italian valet. No answer being returned by Salis, the door of his bed-room was broken open, and he was found lifeless on the bed, with his throat cut from ear to ear. It seems that Salis, having failed in murdering the duke, had retired precipitately on the first alarm, and put a period to his own existence; for his coat, which was folded up on a chair, was stained with blood; a pair of his slippers and the scabbard of the sabre with which he had inflicted the wounds, were found in the closet adjoining the duke's chamber; and the blood left by his arm on the side of the narrow door, plainly discovered the way by which he escaped. It was a fortunate circumstance, however, that notwithstanding the duke had received six different wounds, one upon the upper part of the



forehead, a second down the cheek, a third upon the arm, a fourth, by which the little finger was almost severed from the hand, a fifth on the front of the body, and a sixth on the thigh, none of them proved mortal. His royal highness, as might have been expected, was confined for some time; but at length the public were gratified with an assurance of his perfect recovery.

This, however, was not the only calamity which befel the royal family of England during the year 1810. The amiable princess Amelia, his majesty's youngest daughter, after enduring a most tedious and distressing illness, and expecting in vain the renovation of her health, conceived a wish of presenting her royal father with some token of filial affection, previous to that awful change which she considered to be drawing very near. Accordingly, in an interview with his majesty, she placed on his finger a ring, which had been made for the purpose; but the affecting manner in which she performed this action, accompanied by the impressive words, «*Remember me,*» proved too much for the agitated monarch, already weakened by many severe trials; and the indisposition both bodily and mental, which ensued, involved the nation in sorrow, and rendered it necessary that parliament should turn their attention to the subject of a regency. The princess, who had most unintentionally given this shock to the susceptible mind of her august parent, expired on the 2d of November, and was interred at Windsor.

From motives of delicacy, some time was suffered to elapse, before any decisive measures were adopted by parliament; and after repeated adjournments it



was deemed advisable to proceed by bill rather than by address. A regency bill was, therefore, proposed, at the commencement of the year 1811, and carried through both houses, by which it was enacted, that his royal highness the Prince of Wales, should exercise the office and authority of regent of the united kingdom of England and Ireland, in the name and on the behalf of his royal father, during the continuance of his majesty's illness : but as sanguine hopes were still entertained respecting the king's recovery, it was enacted, that the power of elevating any person or persons to the peerage should be suspended for twelve months; and that all offices and pensions which might be granted by the prince, should continue only during his regency, unless the same should be afterwards approved and confirmed by his majesty. The care of the king's person was, at the same time, committed to her majesty.

The 6th of February 1811, being the day appointed for swearing in the prince of Wales as regent, about a quarter before two o'clock all the dukes, and a numerous assemblage of privy councillors, met at Carlton-house. The whole of the magnificent suite of state apartments were thrown open, and the illustrious characters present were ushered into the *gold room*, which has received that appellation from the style of the ornaments. After the prince had been officially informed of the return of the summons, etc. his royal highness approached in grand procession, preceded by the officers of his council. They passed through the room where the privy councillors were assembled, and through the circular drawing-room into the grand saloon, a beautiful apartment in scarlet drapery, embellished



with portraits of all the most celebrated admirals whose brilliant victories have confirmed to England her dominion over the seas. Here the prince took his seat at the head of the table, his royal brothers and cousin seating themselves on his right and left hand, according to their seniority; whilst all the officers of the household, who were not privy councillors, ranged themselves on each side of the entrance to the saloon. His royal highness then spoke to the following effect: « My lords, I understand that by the act of parliament appointing me regent of the united kingdom, in the name and on behalf of his majesty, I am required to take certain oaths, and to make a declaration before your lordships, as prescribed by the said act. I am now ready to take these oaths, and to make the declaration prescribed. »

The lord privy seal now respectfully approached the regent and read, from a parchment, the following oaths, which the prince pronounced after him with an audible voice.

« I do sincerely promise and swear, that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to his majesty, king George, So help me God.

» I do solemnly promise and swear that I will truly and faithfully execute the office of regent of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, according to an act of parliament passed in the fifty-first year of the reign of his majesty, king George the third, intituled, « An act, etc. » and that I will administer, according to law, the power and authority vested in me by virtue of the said act; and that I will in all things, to the utmost of my power and ability, consult and maintain the



safety, honour and dignity of his majesty, and the welfare of his people. So help me God.»

The regent having subscribed these oaths, the lord president laid before him the declaration mentioned in an act made in the thirtieth year of Charles II. intituled, «An act for the more effectual preserving the king's person and government, by disabling papists from sitting in either house of parliament;» and this declaration his royal highness repeated and subscribed. These instruments were also witnessed by the signatures of the lord president and each of the privy councillors; after which they were delivered to the keeper of the records.

The lord president then approached the regent; and had the honour to kiss his hand. The royal dukes followed, and afterwards the archbishop of Canterbury; and all the rest advanced to the chair, on both sides, in the order in which they had been seated at the long table. The ceremony being closed, a short levee was held in the drawing-room, when his royal highness addressed himself to the circle; and afterwards he gave an audience to Mr. Perceval, who had again the honour of kissing his hand, as first lord of the Treasury and chancellor of the Exchequer.

On the 12th of February parliament was opened by commission, and in the speech delivered on that occasion, after some expressions of the most lively concern on the subject of national calamity which had rendered a regency indispensable; a cheerful picture was drawn of the valour and skill of his majesty's forces, both by sea and land, in the late campaign; of the frustration of the enemy's



designs in Portugal, and at Cadiz; and of the effect produced by the example of British heroism upon the troops of his majesty's allies. It was also stated, that between England and America discussions were depending, which the regent earnestly wished to bring to an amicable conclusion. And the fullest confidence was expressed in the zeal and liberality of parliament for the provision of such supplies as might prove commensurate with the wants of government. To this speech an address was moved by the earl of Aberdeen in the house of lords, and by Mr. Milnes in the house of commons; which, after some opposition, was carried.

Previously, however, to a further account of the proceedings in parliament, or the state of affairs on the continent, it may be proper to give some particulars respecting a most splendid *fête*, given by the prince regent on the evening of the 19th of June, with a two fold motive; first, in honour of the birth-day of his royal parent, and secondly, for the benefit of the numerous classes of British artists, who, in consequence of the indisposition of the king, and the discontinuance of the usual splendour of the court, had suffered very materially; and under this consideration the regent requested that all his invited guests would attend in habits of British manufacture.

About nine o'clock the company began to assemble; and the royal family, with the principal nobility and gentry, came early. The most delightful marches and airs were alternately played by the full bands of the three regiments of foot guards, and the regent's band, in their state uniforms. The Grecian hall was ornamented with shrubs, and an



additional number of lanterns and patent lamps : the floor was carpeted , and two lines , consisting of yeomen of the guards , the king's , the regent's , the queen's , and the royal duke's servants , in their most sumptuous liveries , formed an avenue to the octagonal hall , which was decorated with antique draperies , trimmed with gold-colour , and fastened up by gold-colour cords and tassels. The regent entered the state apartments at a quarter past nine ; he was dressed in a field marshal's uniform , decorated with the riband and gorget of the order of the garter , and a diamond star. During the evening he passed from room to room , conversing with his guests in the most cheerful and condescending manner. The chief amusement of the company , for some time , consisted in perambulating the halls and apartments on the principal floor ; and an universal expression of admiration was elicited by the appearance of the grand circular dining-room , in which the knights of the garter had been recently entertained. The room in which the throne stands was hung with crimson velvet , adorned with gold laces and fringes. The canopy of the throne was surmounted by golden helmets , with lofty plumes of ostrich feathers , and beneath it was placed the state chair ; gold stools were also placed round the room , which exhibited portraits of their majesties , the prince regent , and the duke of York. Of the other apartments on this floor it must suffice to say , that they were all of the most magnificent kind. The ball-room floors were chalked in beautiful *arabesque* devices , and the largest was divided for two sets of dancers by a crimson silk cord ; but owing to the great number of the



guests, and the excessive heat of the weather, no dancing took place in this room. On supper being announced, about two o'clock, the company descended, by the great staircase, to the apartments below, and the temporary buildings erected on the lawn. The room at the bottom of the staircase represented a bower, with a grotto, lined with a rich profusion of shrubs and flowers. The grand table extended the whole length of the conservatory, and across Carlton-house to the length of two hundred feet. Along the middle of the table, about six inches above the surface, a canal of pure water continued flowing from a silver fountain, elegantly constructed, at the head of the table: its banks were covered with verdant moss and aquatic flowers, and gold and silver fish were seen sporting in the crystal stream, which produced a pleasing murmur where it fell, and formed a cascade at the outlet.

At the head of the table, above the fountain, sat his royal highness the regent, on a plain mahogany chair with a leather back, and his most particular friends were arranged on each side. They were attended by sixty *serviteurs*, seven of whom waited on the regent, besides twelve footmen belonging to their majesties in their state livery, with one man in a complete suit of ancient armour. At the back of the regent's seat were *aureola* tables, covered with crimson drapery, and constructed to exhibit, with the greatest possible effect, a profusion of gilt plate, consisting of fountains, tripods, epergnes, dishes, and other ornaments. Above the whole of this magnificent display appeared a royal crown, and the letters G. R. splendidly illuminated.



Behind the prince's chair was most tastefully disposed a sideboard covered with gold vases, urns, and massy salvers; the whole surmounted by a Spanish urn taken from on board «*the invincible armada.*»

Adjoining to the great table were others, running through the library, and whole lower suite of rooms, the candelabras in which were so arranged that the regent could distinctly see, and be seen, from one end to the other; and from the library, and the room beyond, branched out two lines of tables, under canvas, far into the gardens, all richly served with silver plate, and covered with the delicacies of the season.

When all the guests were seated there was a line of female beauty more richly adorned, and a blaze of jewellery more brilliant, than England ever probably displayed before. Four beautiful marquees were pitched on the lawn, with a *chevaux de frise* to prevent intrusion; bands of music were stationed in the tents, and when dancing commenced, the gay throng stepped over floors chalked with mosaic devices, and moved through thickets of aromatic shrubs and flowers, through the foliage of which a profusion of variegated lamps gleamed like stars. The company (which comprised all the members of administration, the foreign ambassadors, the principal nobility and gentry in town, the most distinguished military and naval officers, the lord mayor and lady mayoress, and the principal aldermen and magistrates) did not separate till six in the morning; and, for the gratification of the public, the preparations for the *fête* were permitted to remain several days.

In the house of commons, on the 21st of February,



the chancellor of the exchequer stated, that having during the discussions on the regency bill, expressed his intention of moving for a provision with respect to the regent's household, not to exceed 12 or 13,000 l. he had submitted his plan to the prince; but his royal highness had declared he would not, for his own personal magnificence, add another burden to those already imposed upon the public. Mr. Perceval added, it was sufficiently obvious, from the known character of the regent, that he had submitted to this instance of self-denial, and had refused all personal state from an economical consideration for the people, a consideration which would throw around him more real splendour than any royal establishment whatsoever.

But few bills of an interesting nature were passed during this session, except a bill for better preventing vexatious arrests, by raising the sum for which persons may be held to bail in mesne process; an act for permitting the interchange of the British and Irish militias from their respective countries; and a bill for preventing guineas, half guineas, and seven shilling pieces, from being taken for more than 21 s. 10 s. 6 d. and 7 s. respectively, and for preventing bank notes from being taken for less than the sums expressed in them. On the 24th of July parliament was prorogued by commission, to the 12th of November, and on that day it was further prorogued to the 7th of January ensuing.

On the continent various successes attended the arms of the Spaniards and Portuguese, and those of their cruel invaders; but generally speaking, whenever the British forces engaged, Bonaparte had the mortification to discover that his legions were



not *invincible*; and some victories were obtained which will probably never be obliterated from the recollection of Britons, or of the patriotic bands on whose behalf they were achieved.

The battle of Barossa, which took place on the 5th of March, was fought under such peculiar circumstances, and with such disparity of numbers, that lieutenant-general Graham in his dispatches to the earl of Liverpool, begs leave to make a particular statement, in order to justify himself from the imputation of *rashness* in his attempt. From this statement it appears, that after a nocturnal march of sixteen hours from the camp near Veger, the allied army arrived in the morning on the low ridge of Barossa, about four miles to the southward of the Santi Petri river. This height extends inland about a mile and a half, containing on the north the extensive healthy plain of Chiclana. A large forest of pines skirts the plain, and circles round the height at some distance, terminating down to the Santi Petri; the intermediate space between the forest and the north side of the height being uneven and broken. A well-conducted attack on the rear of the enemy's lines, by the van-guard of the Spanish army, having opened a communication with the Isle de Leon, general Graham received directions to move down from the position of Barossa to that of the Torre de Bermesa, about half way to the Santi Petri, in order to secure the communication across that river, over which a bridge had been recently erected. This latter position occupies a narrow woody ridge, the right on the sea-cliff, the left falling down to the Almanza creek, on the edge of the marsh; while a hard sandy beach af-



fords an easy communication between the western points of these two positions. General Graham's division having halted on the eastern slope of the Barossa height, was marched, about twelve o'clock, through the wood towards the Bermesa, cavalry patrols having previously proceeded towards Chiclana without discovering the enemy. On the march intelligence was received that the enemy had appeared in force on the plain, and was advancing towards the heights of Barossa. As that position was in reality the key of that of Santi Petri, general Graham immediately countermarched, in order to support the troops left for its defence, and this manœuvre was executed with the greatest alacrity. It was impossible, however, on such difficult ground to preserve order in the columns, and there was never time to restore it completely. But before the troops could get entirely disentangled from the wood, those on the Barossa height were seen returning from it, while the enemy's left wing was rapidly ascending, his right standing on the plain, at the edge of the wood, within cannon shot. As a retreat under these circumstances might have proved extremely detrimental to the whole allied army, an immediate attack was determined on, notwithstanding the numbers and position of the foe. As soon as the infantry was hastily collected together, a battery of ten guns opened, and kept up a most destructive fire in the centre, while the right wing proceeded to the attack of general Ruffin's division on the hill, and drove them from their position; and the left wing decided the defeat of the division under general Laval. A reserve formed beyond the narrow valley, across which the enemy



was closely pursued, shared the same fate; and in less than an hour and a half from the commencement of the action, the whole of the enemy's troops were in full retreat. In this brilliant affair the French are supposed to have lost about three thousand, in killed, wounded, and missing, and an eagle and six pieces of cannon fell into the hands of the conquerors. Generals Ruffin, Rosseau, and Bellegarde, were also taken prisoners; the former of whom was wounded, and the second died soon after the engagement.

It may be proper to add, that when the expedition against the rear of the enemy was planned, an arrangement was made with sir R. G. Keats, for an attack on the French batteries in Cadiz bay, in order to effect a diversion. This plan, however, could not be executed, on account of the unfavourable weather, till the day after the battle of Barossa, when it was carried into effect with all the coolness and intrepidity of British seamen. All the batteries on the east side of the bay, from Rota to St. Mary's, with the exception of fort Catalini, were carried by storm, the guns spiked and the works completely destroyed.

Another brilliant display of British valour and intrepidity occurred in the battle of Albuera, which took place between marshal Soult and marshal sir W. Beresford, on the 16th of June.

On the 12th it was reported that Soult had broken up from Seville, and had advanced towards Estremadura, notwithstanding the rumours which had been previously circulated, that he was busily employed in strengthening Seville, and the approaches to that city, and that all his actions indicated



an intention to remain on the defensive in Andalusia. In consequence of this intelligence sir W. Beresford raised the siege of Badajos without any loss, and having collected the troops under his command, formed a junction with generals Castanos and Blake at Albuera on the 15th. The following day he was attacked by the enemy, who for some time appeared likely to obtain the victory, in consequence of the great superiority of their cavalry and a numerous and heavy artillery; the determined heroism of the British troops, however, turned the fortune of the day, and in the night of the 17th the French thought proper to retreat, leaving about 2000 dead on the field of battle, and from 900 to 1000 taken prisoners. The losses in the allied army were also very great; but sir W. Beresford remarks, in his letter to lord Wellington, « Every individual most nobly did his duty; and it was observed that our dead, particularly the 57th regiment, were lying, as they had fought, in ranks, and every wound was in front. »

To this testimony of the gallant general we shall add, for the reader's gratification, the following instances of individual heroism, which were related by Mr. Perceval in the house of commons. During the heat of the action an ensign, of the name of Thompson, was called upon to surrender the colours he held; but he declared he would give them up only with his life, and he fell a victim to his bravery. Another ensign, named Walsh, having fallen on the field severely wounded, tore his colours from the staff and thrust them into his bosom, where they were found after his death. Sir W. Beresford was also attacked by one of the Polish cavalry, whom



he dismounted, with the intention of saving his life; but the man persisting in his first design was at length killed by a dragoon.

Of the other occurrences on the peninsula, our limits will only permit us to observe, that in consequence of the skilful and judicious conduct of lord Wellington, and the cordial unanimity subsisting between the British commanders and their Spanish and Portuguese allies, the French, notwithstanding some trifling successes, found it impossible to execute their recent boastful threat, of speedily crushing every appearance of rebellion; and the flame of patriotism acquired fresh lustre from the diminished reputation of the enemy.

Among the naval exploits which graced this year, we must notice the defeat of the French and Italian squadrons off the isle of Lissa; and the capture of the islands of Banda and Ternate, and of Batavia, the capital of the island of Java.

The combined squadrons alluded to consisted of five frigates, one corvette, one brig, two schooners, one gun-boat, and one xebec, forming a total of 272 guns and 2655 men; to which were opposed his Britannic majesty's ships *Amphion*, *Cerberus*, *Active*, and *Volage*, carrying in all but 124 guns and 879 men. In the morning of the 13th of March, an enemy's fleet having been discovered off the north point of the island of Lissa, the action commenced by the British squadron firing on the headmost ships, as they came within range. Having made a fruitless attempt to break the line in two places, some of the enemy's vessels endeavoured to place their assailants between two fires, but they were so warmly received in this attempt, and rendered so comple-



tely unmanageable , that they went on shore on the rocks of Lissa , in the greatest confusion. The British line was then wore to renew the action , the Amphion not half a cable length from the shore , the remainder of the enemy's starboard division passing under her stern , and engaging her at leeward , whilst the larboard division got to windward , and engaged the Cerberus , Volage , and Active. « In this situation , » says captain Hoste , « the action commenced with great fury , his majesty's ships frequently in positions which unavoidably exposed them to a raking fire of the enemy , whose superiority of numbers enabled him to take advantage of it : but *nothing* could withstand the brave squadron I had the honour to command. The Flora having struck her colours at twenty minutes past 11 A. M. and the Bellona having followed her example , the enemy to windward endeavoured to make off ; but were followed up as close as the disabled state of his majesty's ships would permit ; and the Active and Cerberus were enabled , at 3 P. M. to compel the sternmost of them to surrender , when the action ceased , leaving us in possession of the Corona of 44 guns , and the Bellona of 32 guns (the French commodore) ; the Favorite of 44 guns on shore , where she soon blew up with a dreadful explosion ; the corvette of the enemy making all possible sail to the north-west , and two frigates crowding sail for the port of Lessina ; the brig making off to the south-east ; and the small craft flying in every direction. »

The capture of the island of Banda , on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August , was also particularly honourable to the British arms. The attack was made on this settle-



ment during a dark and squally night, by somewhat less than two hundred men, consisting of seamen and marines, and about forty of the Madras European regiment under the command of Captain Coles. A dark cloud with a fall of rain covered their landing within a hundred yards of a battery of ten guns, which was taken in the rear, and an officer and his guard were made prisoners, though the enemy were at their guns with lighted matches, having discovered the approach of his Britannic majesty's vessels on the preceding day. At the approach of day-light the assailants procured a guide to conduct them to the walls of the castle of Belgica; and after leaving a guard in charge of the battery, the party made a rapid movement round the skirts of the town, where the bugle was sounding an alarm among the enemy. In twenty minutes scaling ladders were placed against the walls of the outer pentagon of Belgica, and the gallantry and alacrity with which they were hauled up, after the outwork was carried, and placed for the attack of the inner work, under a sharp fire from the garrison, were truly astonishing. The enemy, after firing three guns and keeping up an ineffectual discharge of musketry for about ten or fifteen minutes, fled in all directions, leaving their colonel commandant and ten others dead, and two officers and thirty prisoners in the hands of the victors. The day now beaming on the British, discovered to them the fort of Nassau and the sea defences at their feet, and the enemy at their guns at the different posts. Admiral Drury then dispatched a flag of truce to the governor, demanding the immediate surrender of the fort, and promising to



protect all private property. At sunrise the Dutch flag was hoisted in Nassau, and the sea batteries opened a fire on one of the British vessels then approaching the harbour; but on a second flag of truce being sent to the governor, with a menace of storming the fort and laying the town in ashes if the colours were not instantly struck, an unqualified surrender was agreed on, and the British heroes found themselves in possession of the two forts and several batteries, mounting one hundred and twenty pieces of cannon, and defended by nearly seven hundred disciplined troops and the militia.

It is also necessary to add, that the island of Ternate, though so famous for the strength of its fortifications, and memorable for its defence in the last war against the English, was completely subjugated in less than one day (the 29<sup>th</sup> of August) by a very inconsiderable force. From official documents, it appears that the place was defended by 500 regular troops, with a very large proportion of officers and Europeans, aided by the marine department, the Dutch inhabitants and burghers, and the king of Ternate's forces, of whom 250 were in the field, and an equal number from the sultan of Tidore and the adjacent islands in alliance with the Dutch; but such were the gallantry, coolness, and precision of the British, that nothing could ultimately withstand their arms.

After a short but tedious campaign in the month of August, Batavia, the capital of the island of Java, was taken by the British troops under lieutenant-general Sir Samuel Auchmuty; the enemy's most formidable works were carried, and themselves



selves driven from the kingdoms of Bantam and Jacatra ; so that , as lord Minto observes in his dispatches to the directors of the East India company , « An empire , which for two centuries has contributed greatly to the power , prosperity , and grandeur of one of the principal and most respected states of Europe , has been thus wrested from the short usurpation of the French government , added to the dominions of the British crown , and converted from a seat of hostile machination and commercial competition , into an augmentation of British power and prosperity. For this signal and illustrious service , Great - Britain is indebted to the truly British intrepidity of as brave an army as ever did honour to our country ; to the professional skill and spirit of their officers ; and to the wisdom , decision , and firmness of the eminent man who directed their courage and led them to victory. »

But whilst our British tars were gathering a profusion of laurels in different parts , an unpleasant rencontre took place between one of his majesty's vessels and a ship belonging to the American government , which threatened nothing less in its consequences , than a war between those countries.

The particulars of the engagement are thus related by captain Bingham , of the Little Belt. « At half past three , *p. m.* on the 16th of May , a strange sail , which had been previously discovered , appeared inclined to give chase , when I made the private signal , which was not answered. At half past six , finding he gained considerably on us , and clearly discerning the stars in his broad pennant , I thought proper to bring to , and hoist the colours , that no mistake might arise , and that he might see



what we were. The ship was therefore brought to, the colours hoisted, the guns double shotted, and every preparation made in case of a surprise. By his manner of steering down, he evidently wished to lay his ship in a position for raking, which I frustrated by wearing three times. On his coming within hail, about a quarter past eight, I hailed, and asked what ship it was? He repeated my question. I again hailed, and asked what ship it was? He again repeated my words and fired a broadside, which I immediately returned. The action then became general, and continued so for about three quarters of an hour, when he ceased firing, and appeared to be on fire about the main hatchway. I was then obliged to desist from firing, as the ship falling off no gun would bear, and I had no aftersail to keep her to: all the rigging and sails were cut to pieces, and not a brace or bowline left. He then asked what ship this was? and, on being told, he asked if I had struck my colours? I answered no, and asked what ship that was? and, as plainly as I could understand, he answered, the United States frigate.

« Next morning he bore up again, and sent a boat on board with an officer and a message from commodore Rogers, to say, that he lamented the unfortunate affair which had happened; and that had he known our force was so inferior he should not have fired at us. I asked his motive for having fired at all; and his reply was, that we fired the first gun at him; but this was positively not the case. He offered me every assistance I should stand in need of, and submitted to me that I had better put into one of the ports of the United States,



which I immediately declined. By the manner in which he apologised, it appeared evident, that had he fallen in with a British frigate he would certainly have brought her to action; and what farther confirms me in that opinion is, that his guns were not only loaded with round and grape shot, but with every scrap of iron that could possibly be collected. »

Such is the statement of captain Bingham, of the veracity of which there can be no doubt. Commodore Rogers, however, in *his* statement, asserts that the Little Belt fired first, and that under the circumstances in which he was placed, it was a duty incumbent on him to avenge the insult committed upon the American flag. It may also be added, that in a subsequent investigation of this subject in America, the statement of commodore Rogers was confirmed by all the witnesses whom he thought proper to bring forward.

Another event of historical importance which marked the year 1811, was the extirpation of the Mamelukes in Egypt.

This singular people had long considered Egypt as their patrimony, and their obedience to the Turkish viceroy, except when enforced by arms, had long been completely nominal. They were even carrying on an open war against Mohammed Ali, their viceroy and pacha, when the British army under general Frazer landed in Egypt. Upon the receipt of this intelligence the pacha concluded a peace with the Mamelukes, as his less dangerous enemies, and stipulated in one of the articles of his treaty with them, that the whole corps should come and reside at Cairo. With this condition the



greater part of them complied, and under the command of Sciaim Bey fixed their residence at Gizeh, near the capital, but on the opposite side of the Nile; and the remainder, under the command of Ibrahim Bey, remained in Upper Egypt.

About this time the Porte entertained considerable alarm on account of the rapid progress of a sect called the Wechabi, who had already obtained possession of Mecca and Medina. Jussuf, pacha of Damascus, had not been able to resist the numbers and the enthusiasm of these seceders from the Mohammedan faith; and Suliman, pacha of Acre, had in consequence received orders to send the head of Jussuf to Constantinople, and to assume the command of the pachalik of Damascus. Jussuf, however, fled to Cairo, where he was hospitably received by Mohammed Ali, and sheltered from the attempts of his rival; and the Porte finding Suliman no better able than Jussuf to resist the infidels, at length ordered the pacha of Egypt to undertake the recovery of the holy cities, and promised to reward him with the governments of Acre and Damascus. This order and promise of the Porte were no sooner known to the pacha of Acre, than he conceived an ardent desire of revenge, and immediately formed a plan of joining his forces with those of the Mamelukes, and of attacking Mohammed Ali and the small remnant of his army which would be left in Egypt after the departure of the expedition against Mecca, under the command of his son. The jealousy and vigilance of the viceroy, however, proved equal to the treachery of his enemies. A servant of Sciaim Bey having been bribed to betray his master, regularly transmitted to the



pacha copies of the correspondence carried on by the beys in Cairo with those in Upper Egypt, and with Suliman of Acre. The Porte also was duly informed of the designs of the conspirators, and when its final orders arrived the viceroy immediately prepared to put them in execution.

On his return from Suez to Cairo, Mohammed Ali announced the approaching completion of his preparations against Mecca; and that on the first of March he should celebrate a grand festival on the occasion of investing his son with the pelisse of command, previous to the departure of the expedition; and all the Mamelukes in Cairo were invited to honour the ceremony with their presence. The procession was to pass through the private streets of Cairo up to the citadel where the investiture was to take place. The Turkish infantry led the way, and were followed by the Mamelukes on horseback under the command of Sciaim Bey, who was supported by two sons of the viceroy, and the Turkish cavalry followed and closed the procession. The foot soldiers had already entered the interior of the citadel, and the Mamelukes were passing between the inner and outer wall of the fortress, along a narrow way, inclosed on both sides by high walls and ruinous buildings, when the gates at each extremity of the passage were closed. The viceroy had revealed his intention to no one till this moment, when he ordered his infantry to line the walls which surrounded the Mamelukes, and to open a heavy fire upon them, though his sons were still mixed with them, and for some time exposed to the same fate.

The Mamelukes cooped up in a narrow space,



where their equestrian skill and their unrivalled dexterity in the use of the sabre were unavailing, impeded by their own numbers, encumbered by their dresses of ceremony, and surrounded on all sides by a superior force, were compelled to surrender after a feeble resistance. The wicket of the inner gate was then opened, and the Turkish soldiers dragged their victims, one by one into the court of the citadel, where they were first stripped and then beheaded. Of eight hundred Mamelukes who were inclosed within the walls, none escaped; and in the course of the month eight hundred more were destroyed in the neighbouring towns and villages. The surviving beys in Upper Egypt placed themselves at the head of eight hundred Mamelukes, with a considerable body of Negroes and Arabs, near the Cataracts; but a large body of troops marched against them, and it seems that they ultimately succeeded in destroying the last remains of a people who had subsisted, with varied fortunes, from the days of Saladin to the present period.

In the beginning of the year 1812, his majesty's disorder appearing almost hopeless, and the restricted regency being nearly expired, the nation looked with anxiety towards the prince of Wales; as a total change of ministers and measures was generally expected. In a letter to the duke of York, however, his royal highness stated, that he had no predilections to indulge, no resentments to gratify, no objects to attain, but such as were commons to the whole empire. He expressed a wish, indeed that some of those persons with whom the early habits of his public life were formed should now,



constitute a part of his government ; but on the refusal of lords Grey and Grenville to coalesce with certain members of the existing administration, he thought proper to retain those persons with whom their lordships were unwilling to unite.

It was but a short time, however, that the minister held his situation. On the 11th of May, as he was entering the lobby of the House of Commons, at a quarter past five o'clock, a person of the name of Bellingham, who had placed himself at the side of the door, fired a pistol at him, the ball of which entered his left breast. Mr. Perceval uttered a faint exclamation, staggered a few paces, and fell on his face. He was immediately taken up and conveyed into the Speaker's apartments : but before he reached them the last signs of life had departed. A scene of indescribable confusion and dismay ensued, and at this moment the murderer might probably have escaped undiscovered, but, instead of attempting to leave the place, he deliberately sat down, and without hesitation avowed the horrid deed which he had perpetrated. At the close of his examination, when asked what he had to say, he replied « I admit the fact, but wish to state something in my justification. I have been denied the redress of my grievances by government : they all know who and what I am, through the secretary of state and Mr. Becket, with whom I have had frequent communication. I was accused most wrongfully by a governor general in Russia, in a letter from Archangel to Riga, and have sought redress in vain. I am a most unfortunate man, and feel *here* (raising his hand to his breast, ) sufficient justification for what I have done. »



On the 15th of May, Bellingham was brought to the bar of the Old Bailey; when the plea of insanity was suggested by his counsel but rejected by himself. In his defence, which occupied the attention of the court for upwards of an hour, he chiefly expatiated on the ill usage which he conceived he had experienced from government, to prove that his assassination of Mr. Perceval was an act of justice. When the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and sentence of death was pronounced, he appeared perfectly calm and collected; and at his execution, which took place on the 18th, he displayed an extraordinary degree of firmness and self-possession, and refused to the very last to express any contrition for his crime.

A message from the prince regent to parliament having recommended them to make some provision for Mr. Perceval's numerous and afflicted family, the sum of *L.* 50,000 was voted for the use of the children, and *L.* 2000 per annum to the widow to be paid after her decease, to such male descendant of the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval as shall be at that time his heir, for the term of his natural life.

The principal changes in the administration were, Lord Liverpool as prime minister; Lord Sidmouth as secretary of state for the home department; the Earl of Harrowby, lord president of the council, and Mr. Vansittart, chancellor of the exchequer.

An alarming disposition to riot prevailed, during a great part of this year, in the hosiery district of Nottinghamshire, the populous tracts of the Cheshire and Lancashire cotton manufactures, and that part of the West Riding of Yorkshire principally occupied by clothiers. The numbers and audacity of



the rioters, the systematic plans upon which they acted, and the weapons with which many of them were provided, rendered them truly formidable to the master manufacturers, and excited the most lively apprehensions in the minds of the peaceable inhabitants. The leaders of those disturbances, however, were found to be persons in the lowest ranks of society; and after several of the most guilty had been executed, tranquillity was, in a great measure, restored to the disturbed districts.

On the continent, Lord Wellington was in motion at the beginning of the year. On the 8th of January he invested Ciudad Rodrigo, and on the 20th he was enabled to announce the capture of that important frontier town. The attack was made on the evening of the 19th, in five distinct columns, and in less than an hour the assailants were in possession of the place. The garrison, who submitted on this occasion, amounted to one thousand seven hundred men, besides officers; and the fruits of the victory were a hundred and fifty-three pieces of cannon, and large quantities of military stores. To express their grateful sense of this achievement, the Spanish cortes conferred on Lord Wellington the rank of a grandee of the first class, with the title of Duke of Ciudad Rodrigo. Having repaired the fortifications of the captured town, and placed it under the command of a Spanish officer, the heroic Wellington turned his attention to Badajoz, and on the 15th of March, invested it, on both sides the Guadiana. After various heavy cannonadings, breaches were, at length, effected in the bastions of Santa Maria and Trinidad, and Lord Wellington resolved to attack the place in the night of the 6th.



of April. Several attacks were made at once upon the different parts of the works, and the escalade of the castle was the first that succeeded; but so obstinate was the resistance of the enemy, and so formidable the obstacles raised behind the trenches, that, after a long and sanguinary contest, the assailants were ordered to retreat. The possession of the castle being secured, however, decided the fate of the town, and the next morning the commandant surrendered with all his staff, and the whole of the garrison; which at the commencement of the siege, consisted of five thousand men, but of that number twelve hundred had been killed and wounded, during the operations of the attack.

To effect, if possible, a division in favour of the garrison of Badajoz, Marmont advanced against Ciudad Rodrigo, and kept it blockaded, whilst Soult, duke of Dalmatia, advanced from Seville into Estramadura, as far as Villa Franca: but the latter on hearing of the reduction of Badajoz retreated towards the frontiers of Andalusia. On the first intelligence of Soult's retreat, Lord Wellington moved with the allied army under his command towards Castille, and having crossed the Agueda on the 13th of July, he arrived on the 18th in front of Salamanca. After several partial battles in which Sir Thomas Graham rendered his gallantry conspicuous, the grand opposing armies were approaching each other, on the 21st, on the banks of the Tormes, and as they were moving in a confined space, they could not be long without coming to a general engagement. Lord Wellington only waited a favorable opportunity for an attack; and this he obtained in the afternoon of the 22d, by an exten-



sion of the enemy's line to the left, in order to embrace a point then occupied by the right wing of the allies. The British commander immediately ordered an attack on the left wing of the French, which happily succeeded, as did an attack on the front, in which they were successively driven from one height to another. The resistance of the enemy was determined and obstinate; but at the approach of night, they broke and fled in the utmost confusion, and were pursued as long as they could be distinguished. At break of day the pursuit was renewed; and the cavalry of the allies having crossed the Tormes, the rear guard of the enemy was overtaken, when the cavalry fled, leaving the infantry to their fate. Such was the battle of Salamanca, the trophies of which were said to be eleven pieces of cannon, several ammunition waggons, two eagles, and six colours: the prisoners consisted of one general, three colonels, three lieutenant colonels, an hundred and thirty officers of inferior rank, and between six and seven thousand soldiers. Marshal Marmont was also severely wounded, and four general officers were said to have been killed.

In consequence of this splendid victory, the French thought proper to raise the long continued siege of Cadiz, and the conduct of Lord Wellington obtained such universal approbation in Spain, that he was declared commander-in-chief of the Spanish armies.

During these operations in the Peninsula, the relations between England and America had assumed a more hostile complexion, and, after much discussion in conference, it was resolved to settle the existing differences by the sword.

The conquest of Canada was to be attempted,



and troops were immediately marched in that direction : but all the first skirmishes on the part of the Americans proved unsuccessful. In August the British took possession of fort Detroit, and general Hull surrendered himself and his army prisoners of war.

On the 13th of October major-general Brook, to whom general Hull had surrendered, was killed at Queen's town on the Niagara frontier; but the enemy were defeated and general Wadsworth, with nine hundred troops, surrendered to major-general Sheaffe, on whom the command had devolved.

By sea however, the Americans were more successful. In the beginning of September the *Guerriere* frigate, captain Dacres, was taken by the *Constitution*, captain Hull : on the 28th of October, the *Macedonian*, captain Garden, was taken by the *United States*, commodore Decatur; and on the 29th of December, the *Java*, captain Lambert, was captured by the *Constitution*, commodore Bainbridge. Each of the British vessels was defended till they were in such a state that the enemy thought proper to set fire to the *Guerriere* and the *Java* immediately after the action; and the *Macedonian* was a mere wreck when she surrendered.

We must now turn our attention to the campaign in the north of Europe, which is, in fact, the prominent feature in the military annals of the year 1812.

Bonaparte, on his return from his tour in the Netherlands, at the latter end of the preceding year, evidently meditated a grand stroke for the purpose of terminating his differences with the court of Russia, in a manner conformable to that  
continental



continental system which he had hitherto pursued ; and the success of his arms in the peninsula was to be considered as a secondary object till the other was obtained. The first measure on which he resolved was the occupation of Swedish Pomerania ; and accordingly, twenty thousand French troops , under the command of general Friant , entered that province , in the month of February ; and early in the spring, the French army, united to that of the confederation of the Rhine, was in march towards the frontiers of Poland. On the 7th of May Bonaparte quitted Paris, accompanied by his wife and the prince of Neufchatel; and on the 16th they arrived at Dresden , where they had an interview with the emperor and empress of Austria. By this time the emperor Alexander had arrived at Wilna , where was Barclay de Tolly , general-in-chief of the first army of the west. On the 11th of June, Davoust had his head quarters at Konigsberg , where he was joined by the Corsican despot ; and after a long and triumphant march, arrived at Smolensko. That city being reduced by the French after an obstinate conflict, in which a considerable portion of the place was destroyed by fire, the Russians retreated towards Moscow , destroying almost every thing in their progress. On the 7th of September they were attacked by the French on the heights of Borodino , and defeated in a most sanguinary engagement. On the 14th Bonaparte entered Moscow , which the Russians had evacuated , after setting it on fire in several places , which occasioned the destruction of three-fourths of the city. On this occasion about three hundred persons were arrested , and shot by order of the invader , under the title of incendiaries.



The Russian forces, however, still maintained their position in the neighbourhood, and not only prevented the enemy from drawing any supplies from the country, but on the 18th of October attacked and defeated a division of the army under Murat.

The French finding it impossible to remain at Moscow during the winter, were obliged to withdraw from that ancient capital, which, on the 22d, was re-entered by the Russian army. The subsequent retreat of the enemy was truly disastrous. Bonaparte had determined to retire by the way of Kalouga, taking a more southerly course than that which he had pursued in his advance: but the disposition which the Russian general Kutusoff had made, obliged him to change his route.

On the 9th of November he fixed his head quarters at Smolensko, which he quitted on the 13th, leaving marshal Ney to blow up the ramparts. On the 16th and 17th Davoust and Ney were both defeated on the banks of the Dnieper, near Krusna. Bonaparte, having succeeded in crossing the Beresyna, continued his retreat towards Wilna, and on the 5th of December disgracefully quitted his suffering troops, and set off in disguise to Paris, having previously given the command of the army to Murat. In this retreat the French were not only dreadfully annoyed by the Russians, but such was the severity of the weather, that in a few days, as Bonaparte himself acknowledged, more than thirty thousand horses perished; and to form a body guard for himself of six hundred men, he was obliged to collect those officers who had still a horse remaining, generals performing the functions of captains, and colonels those of subalterns in this cohort.



During the absence of the Corsican usurper an attempt was made to subvert his power at Paris. Early in the morning of October 23, the ex-generals, Mallet, Lahorie, and Guidal having drawn up a fictitious senatus consultum, went to the barracks occupied by the first division of the national guards and the dragoons of Paris; and having read a proclamation, announcing the pretended death of the emperor, ordered the troops in the name of the regent to follow them. They accordingly suffered themselves to be led to different posts, where they relieved the guards. The conspirators then arrested the minister and the prefect of the police, and sent them to prison, under an escort of three hundred men. In the mean time another division was marched to the house of general Hulin, the commandant of Paris, who, on hesitating to resign his authority, was shot in the neck. Mallet then proceeded to arrest the chief of the etat major of Paris; but this person happening to have several officers in his apartment, proved too strong for the conspirator and arrested him. The troops, being convinced that an artifice had been practised upon them, laid down their arms; and the whole of the conspirators, amounting to about twenty officers and sub-officers, beside the three ex-generals, were seized and committed to prison. These were tried by a military commission, when the ex-generals and eleven others were adjudged to die, and the rest were acquitted.

The disasters which had befallen the French in Russia, led to a defection of the Prussian troops under general d'Yorck, who entered into a convention with count Witgenstein, as soon as the reduc-



tion of the French force enabled him to do it with safety, and this convention was ultimately followed by an alliance between the king of Prussia and the emperor of Russia.

On the 14th of January 1813, a letter was sent by the princess of Wales to the prince regent, complaining of the restrictions laid upon her intercourse with her daughter, and the indirect imputation thus attached to her character. No answer being returned, her royal highness thought proper to publish her letter in the newspapers, that an apparent acquiescence on her part might not expose her to the suspicion of conscious guilt.

The business was then laid before certain members of the privy council, and after some days they gave, as their opinion, that under all the existing circumstances, it is highly proper that the intercourse between her royal highness the princess of Wales and the princess Charlotte should continue to be subject to regulation and restraint. On the reception of this report, her royal highness appealed to the House of Commons, through the medium of the speaker, earnestly requesting that the whole of her conduct since her arrival in England might undergo a fair and open trial before judges known to the constitution. The house did not think proper to interfere in this delicate business, but in the conversation that took place on it, the innocence of the princess was decidedly avowed. The lord mayor, aldermen and livery of London, also voted an address of congratulation to her royal highness on the annihilation of a conspiracy against her honour and life; which was presented to her at Kensington palace, and the voice of the nation as unanimously in her favour.



Whilst the Russian forces, already recovered from their fatigues, and abundantly furnished with recruits and reinforcements, were enabled to occupy at leisure what positions they chose, strengthened by the addition of the Prussian forces, and promised by Bernadotte a large army of Swedes, Bonaparte was making preparations for the commencement of a fresh campaign. Accordingly, having appointed the empress Louisa regent during his absence, and having formally declared the king of Rome his successor, he left Paris on the 15th of April, to join his army; and though in several battles the allies were uniformly victorious, they were obliged to retire, by the superior number of his forces. The battle of Lunenberg, on the second of April, may be considered as the commencement of this campaign. General Morand had advanced thither to attack baron Van Tettenborn, but generals Domberg, Tehernichef, and Benkendorf being come up with their respective corps, the French were so completely defeated that it is said, not a man escaped, and that three thousand persons were made prisoners, with three colours and twelve pieces of cannon. The same day the Prussian general Von Borstell, who had been sent to surround Magdeburg, on the right bank of the Elbe, was attacked by Beauharnois, and obliged to fall back; but on the arrival of general Witgenstein, a general engagement ensued and the French were defeated, with the loss of two thousand killed and wounded, and nearly a thousand prisoners.

On the 2d of May, a battle was fought at Lutzen, where the French were commanded by Bonaparte in person, and the allies by general Winzingerode;



between twenty and thirty thousand men were sacrificed on this occasion, and the victory was claimed by each party. On the 19<sup>th</sup> the armies were engaged at Wurtschen; on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at Bautzen; and on the 22<sup>d</sup> at Reitzenbach; and, from the acknowledgment of the parties themselves, the killed and wounded in these actions were not less than forty thousand men. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, a suspension of arms took place, at the suggestion of the emperor of Austria, and on the 4<sup>th</sup> an armistice was signed, to continue till the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. This was afterwards extended to the middle of August; but the haughty and insolent behaviour of Bonaparte rendered abortive all attempts of a conciliatory nature, and finally induced his father-in-law to unite his forces to those of the allies.

Hostilities recommenced on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August; and Bonaparte resolved to make an immediate attack upon the capital of Bohemia; but when he had arrived within twelve leagues of the city, he received intelligence that some of his troops in Silesia were exposed to imminent danger, in consequence of the advance of the Russian and Prussian forces from Breslau. He was therefore obliged to hasten to their relief, and on the 21<sup>st</sup> he succeeded in driving his enemies from the line of the Bohr. Scarcely, however, had he done this, when he was informed that the allies had marched against Dresden, in order to cut him off from the Elbe. When he received this alarming news, he was 120 miles distant from Dresden: this distance, however, he marched with a strong body of troops, in four days, amidst torrents of rain, and in the most tempestuous weather, and arrived a few hours



before the allies appeared in sight. The subsequent battle, on the 26<sup>th</sup>, was obstinately contested; but the allies were eventually obliged to retreat, and general Moreau, who had come from America to assist in the deliverance of Europe, received a wound which occasioned his death.

During the month of September Bonaparte made several attacks on the allied armies, but victory no longer crowned his exertions. General Vandamme was defeated and taken prisoner, shortly after the battle of Dresden; Ney and Oudinot were both defeated by the crown prince of Sweden; and the Corsican tyrant was harassed beyond example: for when he was engaged with the grand army in Bohemia, the Silesian army advanced upon Dresden; and when he returned to repulse the Silesian army, the grand army returned.

Perceiving, at length, that the forces of the allies were rapidly accumulating, and threatening his rear, whilst his own supplies were intercepted, and his communications gradually cut off, Bonaparte retired from Dresden on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, in the direction of Leipsick, leaving a garrison in the city, and taking the court of Saxony with him. The following day the king of Bavaria deserted him, and joined the allies, who were now uniting their three armies against the common foe.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> Marshal Ney was defeated by the gallant Blücher, with whom he came in contact on his march. The same day Bonaparte made a furious attack upon the centre of the grand army near Leipsick, but gained no advantage. The three armies of the allies were now in communication with each other; and on the 18<sup>th</sup> a general enga



gement took place, in which the usurper was defeated with prodigious loss, and narrowly escaped being made prisoner; as he quitted Leipsick only two hours before the conquerors marched into it. The allied sovereigns entered the market place in triumph; the court of Saxony were taken prisoners; and of the French force of four hundred thousand men, with which the campaign was commenced, not more than ninety thousand escaped beyond the Rhine. The minor states of Germany now thought proper to join the grand alliance; the confederation of the Rhine was completely broken up, the continental system was dissolved; and the fortresses garrisoned by French troops were successively compelled to surrender.

During the absence of the French troops, a revolution was effected in Holland, equally ominous to the domination of Bonaparte and auspicious to the cause of political freedom. Nothing could be more repugnant to the manners and sentiments of the natives of that country, or more prejudicial to their commercial interests, than their annexation to the French empire; and though they were awed into submission, the majority of the nation contemplated their subjugation with mingled sentiments of indignation and abhorrence. In the month of February a conspiracy was discovered at Amsterdam, for the purpose of subverting the existing government; but the apprehension and punishment of the conspirators suppressed the project in its infancy. At length on the approach of the allied troops towards the Dutch frontier, the people of Amsterdam, as if influenced by one burst of public feeling, rose a body; and with the old rallying cry of *Orange*



*boven*, universally displayed the Orange colours and proclaimed the sovereignty of that illustrious house. The populace expressed their indignation against the French, by burning the watch houses of their custom-house officers, and three of their vessels. One of the officers was also killed in the affray; but this was the only life lost on the occasion. The example of Amsterdam was soon followed by the other principal towns in Holland; and on the 21st of November, a deputation arrived in London to announce the events which had taken place, and to intreat the prince of Orange to hasten to the assistance of his countrymen. A cabinet council was accordingly held, and it was determined that the Dutch patriots should be immediately assisted with all the succours that could be conveniently furnished. On the 30th of the same month the prince of Orange landed at Scheveling, and thence proceeded to the Hague, where he was solicited to assume the reins of government, not under the ancient title of stadtholder, but as sovereign prince of the Netherlands.

The revulsion of the war in Germany was sensibly felt by the French armies in the Peninsula; as about 1200 officers, 600 serjeants and corporals, and 16,000 privates had been drafted into France, during the months of February and March. Some conscripts, indeed, had been sent out to supply their places, but the change had materially diminished their strength; and but little occurred, at this period, besides movements of troops.

On the 11th of April, a division of the Spanish army, commanded by Don Fernando Millares, was attacked by Suchet; who compelled them to retreat, and made himself master of the castle of Villena,



garrisoned by about two thousand men. The next day the victors made an attack upon the allied troops under general Murray, who retired defending every step of the ground, till night separated the combatants. On the 13th, the French were defeated in an engagement near Vrai, and were compelled to retreat, first to Villena, and afterwards to Fuente la Higuera. After remaining some time inactive at Alicant, Sir John Murray embarked his forces with a Spanish division and a complete train of besieging artillery; and on the 4th of June, he landed in the neighbourhood of Tarragona, with thirteen thousand foot, and some hundreds of cavalry. On the 7th, fort San Felipe, a station of considerable importance, surrendered to a detachment under lieutenant colonel Prevost; but on the 12th Sir John, having heard that Suchet was approaching, abandoned the siege of Tarragona in such haste, that he did not even stay to take his cannon with him.

On the 2d of June, Lord Wellington being at Tors, on the river Douro, colonel Grant had a brilliant cavalry affair with the rear of the enemy; and the next day his lordship moved his right wing, under general Hill, across the Douro; and united the Gallician army, under general Giron, to his left wing under general Graham. The French united armies of Portugal and the north had now been joined by their army of the centre, under marshal Jourdan; but they continued to retreat towards the Ebro, which general Graham passed so as to place himself on their flank. On the 18th one French division attacked general Graham at Osma, and another engaged baron D'Alten's brigade at St. Milan; but both were completely repulsed.



On the 19th the French rear-guard was driven back towards Vittoria; and on the 21st a general engagement took place in which the French forces, commanded by Joseph Bonaparte, having marshal Jourdan as his major-general, were so completely defeated, that they were under the necessity of abandoning all their artillery, ammunition, baggage and cattle. One hundred and fifty-one pieces of cannon, and four hundred and fifteen ammunition waggon were taken on the field; and among the trophies was the baton of marshal Jourdan. The loss of the allies was about seven hundred killed and four thousand wounded, but that of the French was considerably greater.

On the 23d generals Graham and Longa were detached in pursuit of the enemy; and on the 25th obtained possession of Tolosa, after an obstinate resistance. On the 26th Sir Rowland Hill invested Pampeluna; and on the 12th of July St. Sebastian was besieged by general Graham. A fortified outport of the latter place was carried by storm on the 17th; and on the 25th an assault was made on the body of the place; but the breaches were so completely commanded by the fire of the garrison, that the British troops were obliged to retreat, with the loss of one thousand two hundred and seventy men.

On the first of July marshal Soult was sent from Germany, to assume the command of the French army that had been driven out of Spain; and on the 24th he was leading his forces through the passes of the western Pyrenees. The following day the two armies were engaged, and much severe fighting followed, till the second of August, when this



part of Spain was again delivered from the presence of the enemy.

The fall of St. Sebastian's was the most important event of the Spanish campaign. The commander-in-chief having directed Sir Thomas Graham to attack and form a lodgement on the breach, which now extended to a large surface of the left of the fortifications, the assault was commenced, in the forenoon of the 31st of August, by a combined column of British and Portuguese. The external appearance of the breach, however, proved deceptive; for when the column, after being exposed to a heavy fire of shot and shells, arrived at the foot of the wall, they found a perpendicular scarp of twenty feet to the level of the street, leaving only one accessible point, formed by the breaching of the end and front of the curtain, and which admitted an entrance only by single files. In this situation the assailants made several desperate exertions to gain an entrance, but not a man survived the attempt to mount the narrow ridge of the curtain. In this posture of affairs Sir Thomas adopted the perilous expedient of turning his guns against the curtain, though the shot passed only a few feet over the heads of his men, at the foot of the breach. In the meantime a Portuguese brigade was ordered to ford the river near its mouth, and attack the small breach to the right of the great one. The success of this manœuvre, united to the effect of the batteries upon the curtain, at length gave an opportunity for the troops to establish themselves on the narrow pass, after a most desperate assault of more than two hours; and in an hour more the defenders were driven from all their complicated works, and



retired with great loss to the castle, leaving the town in full possession of the allies. This success was rendered complete, on the 18th of September, by the surrender of the castle; when the garrison, amounting to about eighteen hundred men, remained prisoners of war, and all the ordnance, stores, etc. were the prize of victory.

The great event of Lord Wellington's carrying the war into France took place on the 7th of October; and the fall of the strong fortress of Pampeluna, the capital of Navarre, completed the liberation of that part of Spain from the French arms.

On the 25th of January 1814, Bonaparte left Paris, once more, to take the command of his armies against the allies, who had now penetrated into France in various directions. He had been preceded on the 10th by Berthier; and on the 24th he, a second time, confided the regency, during his absence, to his wife; on which occasion she took the oath before him, in a council of the French princes, grand dignitaries, cabinet ministers, and ministers of state.

To relate the particulars of all the engagements which took place subsequently to this period, would be incompatible with the design of this work. Suffice it, therefore, to say, that the conflicts on both sides were obstinately contested, though attended with various success. But whilst the Corsican was employed against the allies, the Bourbon standard was hoisted in France, and several of the French towns and villages began to resound with acclamations of *Vive le Roi Louis XVIII! Vivent les Bourbons!* On the 12th of March, Sir William Beresford, with the division under his command,



entered Bordeaux, the second city in France, for size, wealth, and population, and received a most cordial welcome. The mayor even went out to meet him, attended by the constituted authorities, the principal inhabitants, and an immense multitude, in carriages, on horseback, and on foot. In his capacity of mayor, he was decorated with the insignia of Bonaparte's government; but on his approaching marshal Beresford, he tore them in pieces, and trampled them under foot. This conduct was applauded by universal acclamations; and the marshal was solemnly conducted into the city, in which were found eighty-four pieces of cannon, and a hundred boxes of secreted arms.

On the 23d, after much skirmishing with the allies, marshals Mortier and Marmont retired into the French capital, which had for some time expected the approach of the invading armies. The garrison consisted of a part of general Gerard's corps under general Compans, and a force of about eight thousand regulars, and thirty thousand national guards under general Hulin, the commandant of the city. With this force, the French under Joseph Bonaparte, took up a position on the heights of Belleville. The attacks of the allies, however, were crowned with complete success; the heights of Belleville were carried in the most gallant manner by the Prussian guards; the village of Pantin was carried at the point of the bayonet; and the heroic Blucher commenced his attack upon Montmartre, when a flag of truce was sent from marshal Marmont, expressing a wish to receive any communications that might have been intended for him under a flag of truce which had been pre-



viously referred admittance. He also proposed an armistice for four hours, on condition of his quitting every position without the barriers of Paris. These terms were accepted, and the city shortly afterward surrendered to the allied sovereigns, whose entrance and reception are thus described by Sir Charles Stewart, in one of his dispatches to Lord Castlereagh.

« The cavalry under his imperial highness the grand archduke Constantine, and the guards of all the different allied forces, were formed in columns, early in the morning, on the road from Bondy to Paris. The emperor of Russia with all his staff, his generals, and their suites, proceeded to Pantin, where the king of Prussia joined him with a similar *cortege*. These sovereigns, surrounded by all the princes in the army, together with the prince field marshal, and the Austrian *etat major*, passed through the Fauxbourg St. Martin, and entered the barrier of Paris about eleven o'clock, the Cossacks of the guard forming the advance of the march. Already was the crowd so enormous, as well as the acclamations so great, that it was difficult to move forward; but before the monarchs reached the Porte de St. Martin, to turn on the Boulevards, there was a moral impossibility of proceeding: all Paris seemed to be assembled and concentrated in one spot; one spring evidently directed all their movements; they thronged in such masses round the emperor and the king, that, with all their condescending and gracious familiarity, extending their hands on all sides, it was in vain to attempt to satisfy the populace. They were positively eaten up amidst the cries of « *Vive l'Empereur Alexandre,*



— *Vive le Roi de Prusse*, — *Vivent nos libérateurs.* » Nor did the air alone resound with these peals ; for with louder acclamations , if possible , they were mingled with those of « *Vive Louis XVIII. Vivent les Bourbons.* » The white cockade appeared very generally ; many of the national guards whom I saw wore them. The clamorous applause of the multitude was seconded by a similar demonstration from all the houses ; and handkerchiefs , as well as the fair hands that waved them , seemed in continued requisition. In short , to have an idea of such a manifestation of elastic feeling , as Paris displayed , it must have been witnessed. The sovereigns halted in the Champs Elisées , where the troops defiled before them in the most admirable order , and the head quarters were established at Paris.

A declaration on the part of the allied sovereigns having been published , stating their determination to treat no more with Bonaparte or any of his family , and promising , at the same time , to recognise the constitution which the French nation should choose for itself ; the senate assembled , and adopted a provisional government , at the head of which was M. Talleyrand , prince of Benevento. At a subsequent sitting , they declared that Napoleon and his family had forfeited all right to the throne , and that the army and the nation were consequently absolved from their oaths of allegiance. With respect to the choice of their future sovereign considerable difference of opinion existed , but it was finally determined to recal the head of the house of Bourbon to the hereditary throne of St. Louis.



As soon as the emperor Alexander was informed of this decision, he proposed, in the name of the allied sovereign, that Napoleon Bonaparte should choose a place of retreat for himself and his family; and the duke of Vicenza was directed to carry this proposition to him. On the 1st of April, the Corsican reviewed the troops at Fontainebleau, which he seemed to consider as his own; and though the marshals and generals who had learned the resolutions of the senate, conversed together on the subject loud enough to be overheard, he appeared to pay no attention to what they said. When the review was over, marshal Ney followed him into the palace, and asked if he were informed of the great revolution which had occurred at Paris. He replied, with an air of assumed composure, that he knew nothing of it, though he was doubtless well acquainted with all the particulars. Marshal Ney then gave him the Paris papers, which he seemed to read with great attention. After some reflection he signed an abdication in favour of his son, and sent it to the provisional government. This proposition, however, was peremptorily rejected; and on the 6th of April he signed a paper containing a formal renunciation, for himself and his heirs, of the throne of France and Italy. A handsome revenue was, accordingly, decreed to him, and the isle of Elba fixed as the place of his retreat. An extensive principality was settled on his wife, in which she was to be succeeded by her son, the late king of Rome, who was also to be allowed the title of prince of Parma.

The overthrow of the tyrant produced the most lively sensations in England, and the inhabitants of London evinced their feelings on the occasion by



illuminations, for three successive nights, which exceeded in brilliancy and magnificence those on any former occasion.

The 20th of April was a day of peculiar interest to the metropolis. London had seen a French monarch within its walls before; but it was reserved for this auspicious day to exhibit one under circumstances of greater glory to her than if he had come a captive; — a monarch of France returning in triumph to his own land, after being sheltered by British fortitude, and restored by British sacrifices for the repose of the world.

On the 23d his most Christian majesty quitted London; and after a journey and a voyage which resembled a public triumph, he made his entrance into Paris on the 3d of May. The day was perfectly beautiful, and the weather calm and serene. Paris appeared like one vast promenade, abandoned, without disorder, to all the demonstrations of public satisfaction and popular joy. At night the city was completely illuminated, and a most brilliant display of fireworks went off at the bridge of Louis XVI.

On the 6th of June the emperor of Russia, and the king of Prussia, with generals Blucher, D'Yorck, and Bulow, Count Platoff and several other distinguished characters landed at Dover; and the next morning set out on their journey to London, where their reception was not inferior to that which Louis XVIII. had so recently experienced. They were repeatedly entertained by the Prince Regent with equal hospitality and magnificence; and the civic *fête* given at their visit to Guildhall was admirably adapted to impress them with suitable ideas



of the opulence and splendour of the British metropolis, whilst it demonstrated the respect and affection which had been inspired by their strenuous and successful exertions for the emancipation of Europe. The whole period of their residence in London, was, in fact, a sort of jubilee, wherever they appeared they were greeted with unbounded applause; and when they returned to the continent, thousands of prayers for their health and prosperity mingled with the breeze which wafted them across the bosom of the ocean.

The Gazette extraordinary of June 2, announced that Mr. Planta had arrived at the foreign office, on the preceding night, from Paris, with the definitive treaty of peace and amity between his Britannic majesty and the king of France: and on the 20th the ceremony of the proclamation of peace took place, with all its ancient and customary solemnities.

The termination of the long and sanguinary warfare in which the United Kingdom had been engaged against France and her allies, demanded some expression of national gratitude to the Supreme Disposer of all events. Accordingly the 7th of July was appointed, by proclamation, to be observed as a day of general thanksgiving; and the Prince Regent was pleased, for the greater solemnity of the day, to go in person to the cathedral church of St. Paul, accompanied by their royal highnesses, the dukes of York, Kent, Sussex and Cambridge, and his highness the duke of Gloucester; and attended by both houses of parliament, the great officers of state, the judges, and other public officers.

Monday, the 1st of August, being the centenary



of the accession of the house of Brunswick to the throne of England, and the anniversary of the memorable victory of the Nile, was selected as the day for a national jubilee in celebration of the peace. On this occasion a grand fair was held in the park, and in the evening the public were entertained with the representation of a naval engagement on the Serpentine river, and with an illumination, and a display of fire-works more magnificent than had ever been witnessed in this country.

The close of the year 1814 was marked by the termination of the war, in which Great Britain had been engaged with the United States of America; the preliminaries of peace having been signed by the commissioners at Ghent, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December, and ratified, a few days afterward, by his royal highness the Prince Regent.

It was now supposed that Europe would enjoy many years of uninterrupted peace, and that the horrors of war would be succeeded by the augmentation of commerce, the improvement of arts and manufactures, and the wide diffusion of happiness and contentment. Such conjectures, however, were unfortunately ill-founded. The restless spirit of Bonaparte meditated, in his seclusion at Elba, the recovery of a sceptre which had so recently been wrested from his unhallowed hand; — his friends and adherents in France, who were too numerous even in the court, engaged to prepare the way for his return; and the demon of discord already triumphed in the anticipation of new revolutions, and a fresh effusion of human blood.

A. D.  
1815.

During the temporary absence from Elba of colonel Campbell, the British commissioner, who had gone to Flo-



rence, Bonaparte sailed from Porto Ferrajo, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February, on board a brig, which was followed by four smaller vessels, carrying about eleven hundred men, consisting of a small body of Frenchmen, united with a motley assemblage of Poles, Corsicans, Neapolitans, and Elbese. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March the men were landed near Cannes, in the Gulf of Juan, and the same evening, the mayor received orders to provide three thousand rations. Antibes was also summoned in the name of Bonaparte; but those who presented themselves to the commandant on this occasion were disarmed and arrested. On the 2<sup>d</sup> the Corsican put his little army in march, passing the town of Grasse without attempting to enter it, and in the course of the three following days, he proceeded across of the mountains to Grenoble, a garrison town, and military *depôt*, which was under the command of general Marchand. Aware of the partiality of the military towards him, Bonaparte on approaching the town threw open his bosom and exclaimed, « Soldiers, you have been told I am afraid of death — here is my bosom, fire into it, if you think proper. » This appeal was immediately answered by shouts of *Vive l'Empereur!* and the troops who ought to have arrested or exterminated the invader, perfidiously arranged themselves under his banners.

Bonaparte having obtained considerable supplies at Grenoble, proceeded under an escort of six hundred cavalry to Lyons, a city containing a population of about 110,000 souls. Here the inhabitants appeared disposed to support the cause of the legitimate sovereign, and they received Mon-



sieur, the king's brother, the duke of Orleans, marshal Macdonald, and general St. Cyr, on their arrival from Paris, very favourably. The officers of the garrison, however, avowed their determination of joining Bonaparte, and the troops uttered loud and repeated shouts of *Vive Napoleon!* Monsieur, therefore, quitted Lyons on the 8th, followed by marshal Macdonald and the prefect of the department, whilst the duke of Orleans hastened to inform the king of the general defection of the military.

Marshal Ney, whose perfidy will be remembered and abhorred as long as his name survives in the page of history, gave the strongest assurances to his sovereign, not only that the rebel army should be attacked, but that their leader should be brought in *an iron cage* to Paris. No sooner, however, had he joined his troops, than he addressed a proclamation to them, describing the Bourbons as unworthy of the throne, and urging them to join the invader. He then communicated to the court a declaration signed by the whole army under his command, in which they stated that they would not fight for Louis the XVIII, but that they would shed all their blood for *Napoleon the Great!*

On the 19th Bonaparte reached and occupied Fontainebleau, without the least opposition, having with him about fifteen thousand veteran troops; whilst other divisions were following him, and advancing to support his right and left flanks on parallel lines of march. The number of national guards, volunteers, and other troops, collected at Melun, to stop his farther progress, was about 100,000 men; and on those the hopes of the Bourbon



family rested, as they seemed truly devoted to the cause of the king, and anxious to meet and repel his enemy.

At an early hour in the morning of the 20th, preparations were made for an engagement, which was expected to decide the fate of France. The royal army was drawn up in three lines, the intervals and the flanks being armed with batteries, while the centre occupied the road leading to Paris. The ground from Fontainebleau to Melun is a continual declivity; so that, on emerging from the forest, the spectator has a clear view of the country before him; whilst those below can easily discern whatever appears on the eminence. An awful silence, broken only occasionally by peals of martial music, or by the voices of the commanders, pervaded the king's army. All was anxious expectation; the chiefs feeling that one moment might subvert the throne, and the troops perhaps secretly awed at the idea of meeting in arms the man to whom they had been in the habit of yielding the most servile obedience. On the side of Fontainebleau no sound as of an army advancing to battle, was heard. At length a light trampling of horses became audible, and an open carriage, escorted by a few hussars and dragoons appeared on the skirts of the forest, and drove down the hills with the rapidity of lightning, till it reached the advanced posts. Cries of *Vive l'Empereur!* immediately burst from the astonished soldiery, and exclamations of *Napoleon! Napoleon the Great!* spread from rank to rank; for Bonaparte uncovered, with Bertrand on his right hand, and Drouet on his left, appeared in the carriage, and continued his course, wa-



ving his hand and opening his arms to the troops, whom he hailed, as « his friends, his companions in arms, whose honour, whose glory, and whose country he came to restore.» All discipline was now disobeyed, and insulted; the commanders took to flight, and the acclamations of the traitorous soldiers rent the air. At this juncture Bonaparte's guard descended the hill, — the imperial march was played, — the eagles were once more exhibited, — and those who were to have met in deadly hostility embraced as brothers, and joined in universal shouts. Thus was Paris thrown open once more to the unprincipled Corsican, who arrived at the Tuileries, about eight o'clock in the evening; the unfortunate king having previously set out for Lille, whence he was afterwards obliged to remove to Ghent.

Bonaparte now expected, by a recurrence to his former arts, to establish himself on the throne of France; but his hopes and views on this subject proved fallacious. No sooner were the particulars of his return known to the allied sovereigns, than they issued a declaration, in which they proclaimed him a traitor and an outlaw; and this was soon followed by a new treaty, engaging to act in concert against him with all their powers. Bonaparte perceived the gathering storm which menaced him; and every possible exertion was made on his part, to put his armies into a formidable state, and to rouse the inhabitants of France to support his government. He was resolved to attack his enemies, without waiting for an invasion of his territories; and by dashing into Belgium, he expected to gain a victory which would effectually recover  
his



his military reputation, and either distract or paralyse his opponents.

In pursuance of this resolution, after giving to the French a new constitution, and nominating generals Sebastiani, Grenier, Beaumont, and Campano, to the command of Paris, he set out for Soissons on the 11th of June, and on the 13th he reached Avesnes, where he seems to have contemplated an immediate attack on the allies; as he issued an order of the day reminding his troops that the 14th was the anniversary of Marengo and Friedland; and that « to every Frenchman who had a heart, the moment was arrived to conquer or perish. »

With this appeal to their passions, he put his army in motion. The Prussian posts were established on the Sambre. These he attacked early in the morning of the 15th, and in the course of the day he drove them from the river, and made himself master of the ground from Thuin to Fleurus, a distance of about 16 miles on the Namur road; whilst on the Brussels road, he forced back a Belgian brigade to Quatre Bras, about 12 miles from the river. The Belgians being afterwards reinforced, regained part of the ground they had lost, but at the close of the day the advantage evidently rested with Bonaparte, who established his head quarters at Charleroi.

Intelligence of these events was not brought to the duke of Wellington at Brussels, till the evening; when he instantly put his troops in motion. Sir T. Picton's division, with the duke of Brunswick's corps, and the Nassau contingent, arrived at Quatre Bras, about half past two in the afternoon of the 16th, when they were finally attacked



by the corps of d'Erlon and Reille, and a cavalry corps under Kellerman: and the gallant duke of Brunswick was slain. The Prussians, at the same time, were attacked in their position near Ligny; and, after a severe contest which lasted till night, both the Prussians and British thought proper to fall back upon their reinforcements; the former about 14 miles to Wavre, the latter about the same distance to Waterloo; thus keeping up their communication, and being ready either to support each other, or to unite in pursuit of the enemy, as circumstances might require.

The 17th passed without any occurrence of importance; but the following day was expected to prove decisive, and that expectation was realized. The whole weight of the French force, with the exception of Vandamme's corps, was thrown upon the duke of Wellington's army, whose line was within about 15 miles of Brussels, crossing the high roads to that city from Charleroi and Nevilles, a little before their junction.

The battle began about ten o'clock in the morning, with a furious attack on a post occupied by the British in front of their right. This was supported by a tremendous cannonade upon their whole line, and with repeated attacks of infantry and cavalry until seven in the evening, when a desperate attempt was made to force their left; but in this the French, after a severe contest, were defeated, and compelled to retreat in great disorder. At this critical juncture the heroic Wellington advanced his whole line of infantry, supported by cavalry and artillery, against the enemy, who was unable to resist the attack. The first line was



driven back on the second, and the second line was almost immediately broken. The French were now thrown into such complete confusion that their artillery, baggage, and every thing was abandoned; and the perseverance of the British general and soldiers was crowned with success, so much the more precious, as it had long remained in a state of the most awful suspense.

On this occasion Bonaparte brought 130,000 men into the field, and these fought with greater desperation than in any former engagement; but after their rout, they became more completely broken than ever, threw away their arms by whole regiments, and, in a word, were wholly disengaged and dispersed.

General Bulow, having judiciously placed himself on the enemy's flank, pursued them with 16 regiments of Prussian cavalry the whole of the night, so that the roads were literally covered with the dead and dying, with arms, baggage, etc. Bonaparte's travelling carriage, plate and papers fell into the hands of the conquerors; and three hundred cannon, and about 14,000 prisoners were the fruits of this splendid victory. The loss of the French in killed and wounded was estimated at 50,000 men, and that of the allies exceeded 30,000.

After witnessing the irretrievable discomfiture of his troops, Bonaparte retreated with precipitation to Paris, where he arrived at eleven o'clock on the night of the 20th; and the following day he stated explicitly to his ministers, that his army was no more. The assembly of representatives now declared their sitting permanent; and Napoleon was persuaded, in the course of the day, to abdicate the



throne, in favour of his son. This abdication was accepted, and a complimentary message returned by the chamber; but the question with regard to the title of the young Napoleon was prudently evaded.

The remains of the French army, in the mean time, had retired upon Laon. All barriers between Waterloo and Paris seemed to disappear; and the allied troops penetrated, almost without opposition, into the very heart of France. The town of Cambray was taken by escalade, by Sir C. Colville; St. Quentin was abandoned to marshal Blucher; and various other operations were executed with the greatest success. All these, however, were but preliminary to the occupation of the capital, by the immortal Wellington and Blucher, who, in consequence of a military convention, occupied the barriers of Paris on the 6th of July, and on the 8th they escorted the king to the palace of his ancestors.

The ex-emperor, on quitting Paris after his abdication, retired to Rochefort, with an intention of sailing for the United States of America. But after long watching in vain for an opportunity of eluding the naval force stationed off that coast, he at length resolved to throw himself on the British for protection. Accordingly he went on board the *Bellerophon* with his suit, and addressed a letter to his royal highness the prince regent; from which it appears that he expected to find a comfortable asylum in England. In this, however, he was disappointed; the allied sovereigns having unanimously fixed for his future residence, the island of St. Helena; to which place he has been subsequently removed, with the title of *general Bonaparte*.



The conclusion of peace between France and the allied powers was for some time protracted ; but at length the several treaties and conventions for that purpose , were signed at Paris on the 20th of November. By these treaties France cedes in perpetuity , Landau , Sarre-Louis , Philippeville , Marienberg , and Versoix , near the lake of Geneva. The fortifications of Huningen are to be destroyed , and no fortifications are to be erected within three leagues of Basle. France engages to pay to the allies 700 millions of francs , equal to 29 millions sterling ; and to maintain , during five years , 150,000 allied troops within her own territory. And 16 fortresses are to be garrisoned by the allies during five years ; viz. those of Valenciennes , Condé , Maubeuge , Landrecy , Le Quesnoi , Cambray , Givet and Charlemont , Mezieres , Sedan , Thionville , Longwy , Bitche , Montmedy , Rocroy , Avesnes , and the bridge head of Fort Louis. Finally , the whole of the allied troops stationed in France are to be placed under the command of the duke of Wellington , to whose brilliant achievements at Waterloo , under the blessing of Divine Providence , Europe is indebted for the fall of the tyrant , and the restoration of peace.

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME.

FINIS.



The object of this work is to present a full and complete history of the United States, from the first settlement to the present time. It is intended to be a history of the people, of their institutions, of their progress, and of their future prospects. It is a history of the nation, of its growth, of its development, and of its destiny. It is a history of the people, of their struggles, of their triumphs, and of their failures. It is a history of the nation, of its greatness, of its glory, and of its shame. It is a history of the people, of their virtues, of their vices, and of their sins. It is a history of the nation, of its power, of its weakness, and of its decay. It is a history of the people, of their hopes, of their fears, and of their dreams. It is a history of the nation, of its future, of its present, and of its past. It is a history of the people, of their lives, of their deaths, and of their souls. It is a history of the nation, of its fate, of its destiny, and of its end.

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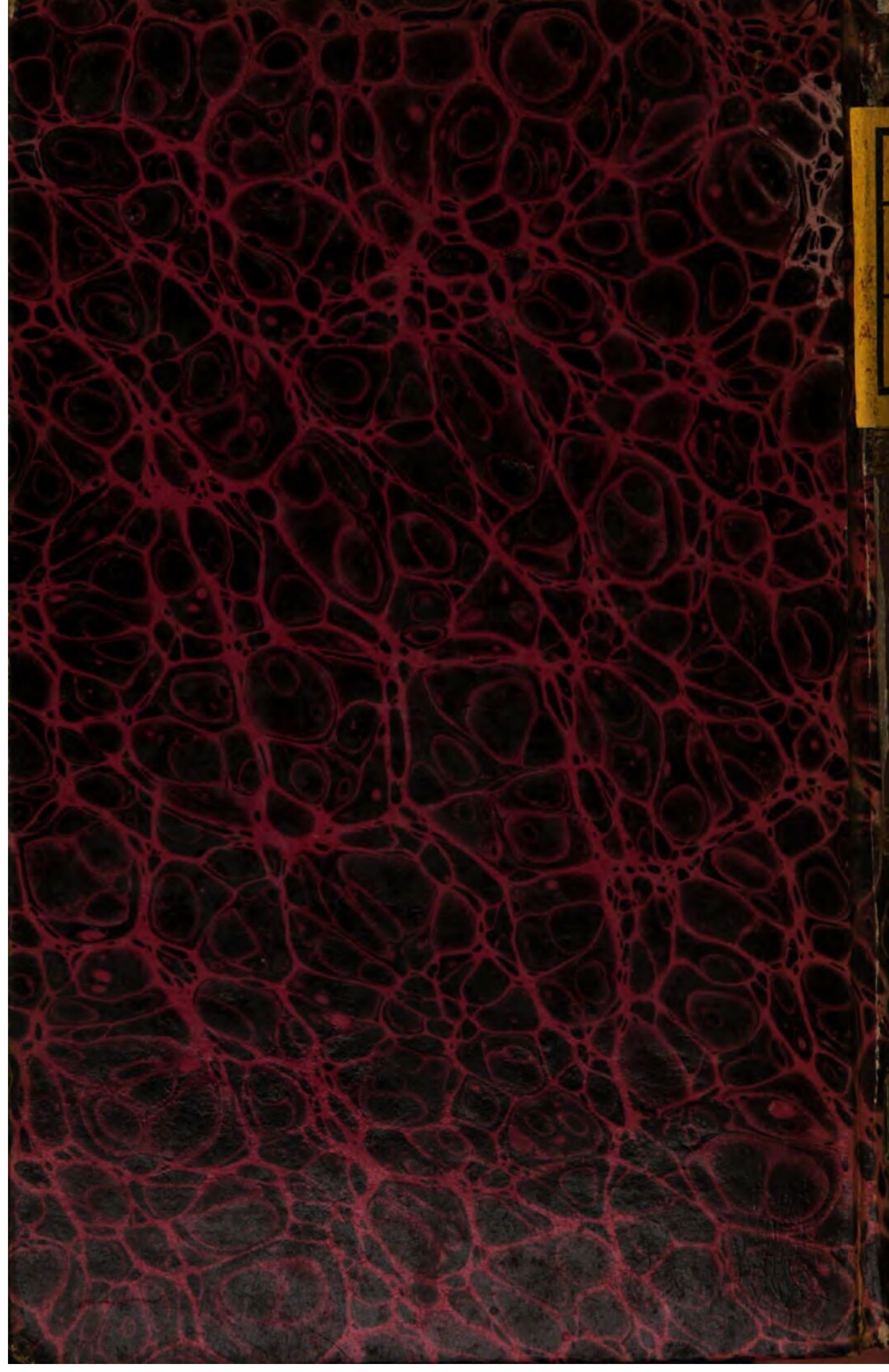














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